

## Learning about Legislation #60 - [H.R.3233](#): National Commission to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol Complex Act

In the aftermath of the insurrectionist attack on the US Capitol on January 6th, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made [an announcement](#) that she wanted Congress to pass legislation to create a 9/11-style commission to investigate the attack and propose a path forward. The proposal, which seemed like a no-brainer, got [mired down in partisan bickering](#), as Republican lawmakers demanded that any investigation centered on the Capitol attack should widen its scope to include Antifa and Black Lives Matter actions from the summer of 2020.

This week there was a breakthrough, as House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson and Ranking Member John Katko announced they had reached an agreement and were jointly introducing [H.R.3233](#) - The National Commission to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol Complex Act.

This new bill outlines four purposes for this commission (the numbered items below are quotes directly from Section 3 of the [bill text](#)):

1. To investigate and report upon the facts and causes relating to the January 6, 2021, domestic terrorist attack upon the United States Capitol Complex
2. To examine and evaluate evidence developed by relevant Federal, State, and local governmental agencies
3. To build upon the investigations of other entities and avoid unnecessary duplication by reviewing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of other executive branch, congressional, or independent bipartisan or non-partisan commission investigations
4. To investigate and report to the President and Congress on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations for corrective measures that may include changes in law, policy, procedures, rules, or regulations that could be taken to prevent future acts of targeted violence and domestic terrorism, including to prevent domestic terrorist attacks against American democratic institutions, improve the security posture of the United States Capitol Complex while preserving accessibility of the Capitol Complex for all Americans, and strengthen the security and resilience of the Nation and American democratic institutions against domestic terrorism.

The Commission would be made of ten people who are not currently a part of any government entity, and how have expertise/experience in at least two of these nine fields - governmental service; law enforcement; civil rights, civil liberties and privacy; the armed forces; intelligence; counterterrorism; cybersecurity; technology; and the law. Each party will get to choose five commission members, but Democrats get to choose the Chairperson and Republicans choose the Vice-chair.

This Commission will have subpoena power. A subpoena may be issued by agreement of the Chair and Vice-chair or by a majority vote of the 10 members. The Commission may hold hearings and demand the appearance of witnesses. Funds for staffing and administration of the commission will be authorized.

We cannot move forward as a nation until there is accountability and a path forward from January 6th. This bipartisan solution is limited in scope to the attack of the Capitol (and does not include unrelated GOP talking points and targets) and appears to have been given all the power it needs to have a productive, successful investigation.