

MEMORANDUM

From: Kory Kozloski, DCCC Political Director
Date: October 4, 2019
Subject: McCarthy's Impeachment Position Puts Republican in a Bind

On Sunday, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy elevated himself as House Republicans' spokesperson for the impeachment inquiry, and outlined a case that is not only demonstrably false but wildly out of step with the American people. Vulnerable Republicans' in particular must navigate the fact that even Donald Trump's 2016 supporters believe the American people deserve more information from the whistleblower, let alone the strong support for the investigation from the cross-over voters that these swing Republicans need to win re-election. Until stated otherwise, House Republicans across the map own the positions that [McCarthy laid out in his disastrous 60 Minutes interview](#).

McCarthy's positioning may be good for his politics with President Trump, but every piece of evidence suggests it pits his Caucus against the majority of the American people. Here are three reasons why:

1. **INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT:** While Minority Leader McCarthy has asserted that House Republicans believe "[there's not something you have to defend here](#)," the American people have no question that President Trump's conduct in office was inappropriate.

[Q: Do you think it's appropriate or inappropriate for Donald Trump to ask the Ukrainian president to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden's son?](#)

- Overall: 23% appropriate, 52% inappropriate (-29 net)
- Among Independents: 21% appropriate, 45% inappropriate (-24 net)

2. **INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION – EVEN TRUMP VOTERS AGREE:** While Minority Leader McCarthy has asserted that House Republicans believe "[you and I have all the information we need](#)," the American people, including Republicans, disagree. They expect Congress to act in order to produce more information with regards to President Trump's conduct in office.

[Q: A whistleblower within the intelligence community filed a complaint about the contents of a call President Trump had with a foreign leader. Do you think this whistleblower should or should not testify for the House of Representatives impeachment inquiry into President Trump?](#)

- Overall: 73% should testify, 18% should not testify (+55 net)
- Among Republicans: 52% should testify, 38% should not (+14 net)
- Among Independents: 74% should testify, 16% should not testify (+58 net)
- Among 2016 Trump supporters: 53% should testify, 36% should not (+17 net)

3. **SUPPORT FOR MOVING INQUIRY FORWARD:** And while Minority Leader McCarthy has asserted House Republicans' position is that there is "[nothing to move forward with](#)," the American people are clear that what we have already seen from President Trump is more than sufficient grounds for Republicans to join in support for an impeachment inquiry.

[Q: Do you believe launching a formal impeachment inquiry into President Trump for soliciting foreign interference in a US election is the right thing to do?](#)

- Overall: 53% Yes, 33% No (+20 net)
 - 33% definitely yes, 18% definitely not (+15 net)

Minority Leader McCarthy's unequivocal position that there is nothing to defend, nothing to get to the bottom of, and nothing to consider, puts House Republicans in a bind, particularly incumbents like Katko, Fitzpatrick, Upton, Bacon, Zeldin, Wagner, and McCaul who must earn notable cross-over support from Independents and even Democrats to win re-election. Either they remain silent and accept McCarthy's clearly out of step position as their own, or break from their Leadership and follow the lead of the American people.