

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1354

Impeaching John McConnell, Jr., Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2026

Mr. STEUBE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## RESOLUTION

Impeaching John McConnell, Jr., Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

1       *Resolved*, That John McConnell, Jr., Chief Judge of  
2 the United States District Court for the District of Rhode  
3 Island, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors,  
4 and that the following article of impeachment be exhibited  
5 to the Senate:

6       Article of impeachment exhibited by the House of  
7 Representatives of the United States of America in the  
8 name of itself and of the people of the United States of  
9 America, against John McConnell, Jr., Chief Judge of the  
10 United States District Court for the District of Rhode Is-

1 land, in maintenance and support of its impeachment  
2 against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

3 ARTICLE I: ABUSE OF JUDICIAL DISCRETION, DERELIC-  
4 TION OF DUTY, AND ENDANGERMENT OF PUBLIC  
5 SAFETY

6 John McConnell, Jr., Chief Judge of the United  
7 States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, has  
8 engaged in conduct incompatible with the trust and con-  
9 fidence placed in him as a judicial officer, as follows:

10 (1) On June 5, 2026, in Dorcas International  
11 Institute of Rhode Island et al., v. United States  
12 Citizenship and Immigration Services et al., Judge  
13 McConnell, Jr. issued an order vacating a policy  
14 framework (Challenged Policies) adopted by U. S.  
15 Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS),  
16 which paused all asylum applications and pending  
17 immigration benefit requests, required a substantive  
18 review of already approved immigration benefit re-  
19 quests, and ordered USCIS to treat country-specific  
20 factors in discretionary immigration benefit deci-  
21 sions. These policies were designed to ensure that  
22 persons from high-risk countries who entered the  
23 United States on or after January 20, 2021, do not  
24 present threats to national security or public safety.  
25 In his decision to vacate the Challenged Policies  
26 framework, Judge McConnell, Jr. disregarded the

1 incidents that necessitated the USCIS Challenged  
2 Policies framework. This includes the June 2025  
3 guilty plea of an Afghan national, Nasir Ahmad  
4 Tawhedi, for conspiring and attempting to provide  
5 material support and resources to ISIS for a  
6 planned terrorist attack in the United States on the  
7 day of the general election for President and Vice-  
8 President in November of 2024, as well as the No-  
9 vember 2025 terrorist attack against two National  
10 Guard members in Washington, DC, by an Afghan  
11 national named Rahmanullah Lakanwal.

12 (2) In his ruling, Judge McConnell, Jr. dis-  
13 missed the executive branch's national-security jus-  
14 tification as pretextual, and such actions are forbid-  
15 den from influencing the decision-making process of  
16 USCIS. Judge McConnell, Jr.'s ruling placed the in-  
17 terests of noncitizens seeking immigration benefits  
18 above the national security of the United States and  
19 interferes with the executive branch's ability to ade-  
20 quately, properly, and fully mitigate any and all na-  
21 tional security risks associated with the entrance of  
22 persons originating from certain countries lacking  
23 sufficient vetting protocols and accountability safe-  
24 guards. By mandating that USCIS resume the proc-  
25 essing of immigration benefits and dismissing na-

1        tional security justifications for a pause in proc-  
2        essing, it is evident that Judge McConnell, Jr., has  
3        committed an egregious dereliction of duty by per-  
4        mitting his own political hostility towards the execu-  
5        tive branch's immigration policies to override the  
6        neutral application of law.

7            (3) In taking this action, Judge McConnell, Jr.  
8        marginalized core public safety and national security  
9        considerations and thereby contributed to an envi-  
10       ronment of impunity for terrorism, the  
11       endangerment of public safety, and eroding of the  
12       national security of the United States. This pattern  
13       is inconsistent with the duty of impartial fidelity to  
14       law and to the safety of the people, and it under-  
15       mines respect for the rule of law at a time of ele-  
16       vated public concern about terrorism and national  
17       security.

18

19       Accordingly, Judge McConnell Jr. has engaged in  
20       conduct so utterly lacking in judicious restraint and basic  
21       fidelity to public safety and national security that he is  
22       guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors, is unfit to hold  
23       the office of Chief Judge, and should be removed from  
24       office.

○