

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 18, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Chairman Lynch:

Beginning on August 15, 2021—for the first time in nearly two decades—the Taliban are the ruling party in Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup> Over 20 years, we defeated al Qaeda, won social gains for women and girls, increased economic security for all Afghans, and decreased the illicit drug trade. These gains dissolved in a matter of hours. The current state of Afghanistan is a national security crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis. And it is a crisis of leadership. Today, Americans and their allies are less secure than yesterday. Congress must understand the scope of the failures that led to the fall of Kabul.

Over the past two Congresses, this Committee has held seven hearings on a range of issues relating to Afghanistan. But surprisingly, you have not announced plans to conduct congressional oversight of the dramatic and deteriorating situation in Kabul. We call on you to immediately convene a hearing of the full Committee. This Committee has a responsibility to continue to conduct robust oversight of Afghanistan as well as the Biden Administration's decision-making over the past eight months. To not schedule a hearing is a dereliction of duty and an abdication of congressional authority and responsibility.

We all have questions that must be addressed. These include:

1. Will U.S. financial or other assistance to Afghanistan continue considering it could be construed as providing material support to a foreign terror organization?
2. What is the location of U.S. assets and military equipment that was left to the Afghan government or abandoned during the withdrawal?
3. Will President Biden commit to ensuring the safe return of all U.S. citizens currently located in Afghanistan?
4. Did U.S. intelligence predict that Afghanistan would fall so rapidly?

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<sup>1</sup> Scott Neuman, *Afghanistan Falls To The Taliban Again As The U.S.-Backed Government Collapses*, NPR (Aug. 15, 2021), <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/15/1027860324/the-taliban-win-control-of-afghanistan-as-the-u-s-backed-government-collapses>.

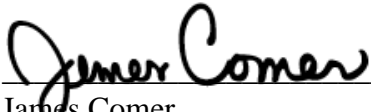
5. Did President Biden and his Administration conceal any intelligence from Congress and relay different information to the American people than the intelligence suggested related to the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan?
6. Was President Biden briefed on the likelihood that the Afghan Security Forces would succumb to the Taliban so easily or would be likely to take bribes to lay down arms?
7. Will more U.S. or U.S. allied servicemembers be deployed?
8. How long will the current number of servicemembers be deployed?
9. When did President Biden notify our allies of the plans to withdraw and did our allies express concerns?
10. Did President Biden attempt to negotiate any agreements between the Afghan government and the Taliban before the complete withdrawal?
11. Did President Biden attempt to negotiate a cease fire with the Taliban in lieu of a complete withdrawal?
12. How many Afghans to whom we promised to provide shelter and that assisted the U.S. efforts have been kidnapped or murdered?
13. For those Afghans that we successfully extricated from the country, how did the Administration decide who to extricate and where were they relocated?
14. How many Afghan civilians have been killed by the Taliban during the ensuing chaos?
15. Was President Biden briefed by either military or diplomatic leaders that the evacuation of U.S. and U.S. allied personnel posted at the Embassy should have begun sooner?
16. Why didn't the evacuation begin before the Taliban entered Kabul?
17. Have any U.S. servicemembers been injured or killed thus far?
18. Was President Biden briefed on possible military actions against the Taliban as they made their way to Kabul?
19. Was President Biden briefed on possible military actions to destroy U.S. owned assets in Afghanistan?
20. Is the U.S. Embassy in Kabul secure?
21. Was all sensitive information within the embassy and any other U.S. buildings destroyed?

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These are just a few of the many questions that must be answered by the Biden Administration. As we have done over the past 20 years, this Committee is in a unique position to investigate and conduct oversight over every aspect of this predictable tragedy. It is imperative we continue to do so. We respectfully request that you convene a hearing immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform



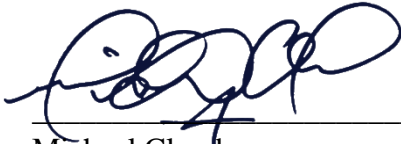
Glenn S. Grothman  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



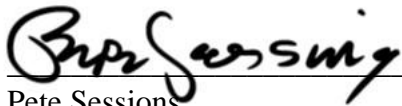
Jody Hice  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Government  
Operations



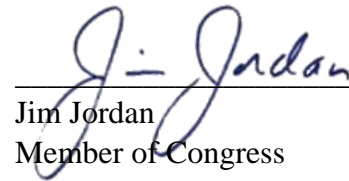
Michael Cloud  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic and  
Consumer Policy



Ralph Norman  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment



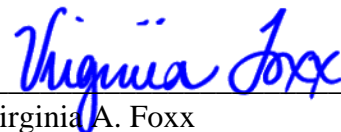
Pete Sessions  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and  
Civil Liberties



Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress

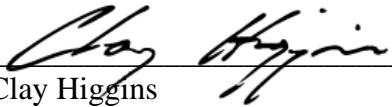



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

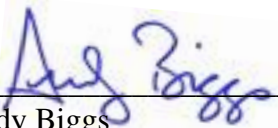


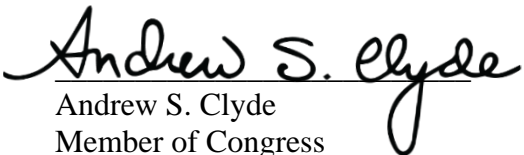
Virginia A. Foxx  
Member of Congress

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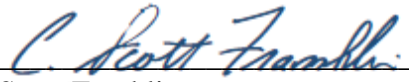
  
Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress


  
Fred Keller  
Member of Congress

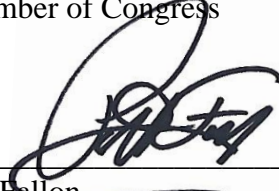
  
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Nancy Mace  
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Scott Franklin  
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Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress

  
Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress

  
Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress

  
Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties