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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions for the declassification and publication of materials relating to the Afghanistan withdrawal, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ISSA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions for the declassification and publication of materials relating to the Afghanistan withdrawal, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Afghanistan With-
5 drawal Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW AND PUBLICATION OF**
2 **MATERIALS RELATING TO AFGHANISTAN**
3 **WITHDRAWAL.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the American people deserve to understand the
6 events and decision-making which resulted in the chaotic
7 withdrawal of United States personnel from Afghanistan
8 in 2021.

9 (b) DISSENT CHANNEL CABLE RELATING TO AF-
10 GHANISTAN WITHDRAWAL.—

11 (1) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—

12 (A) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 5 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
14 Secretary of State shall submit to the Com-
15 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Re-
17 lations of the Senate a complete (and, except as
18 provided in subparagraph (B), unredacted) copy
19 of—

20 (i) the dissent channel cable of the
21 Department of State written on or about
22 July 13, 2021, describing the likely con-
23 sequences of United States withdrawal
24 from Afghanistan; and

1 (ii) the official response of the De-
2 partment of State with respect to such dis-
3 sent channel cable.

4 (B) AUTHORIZED REDACTIONS.—The Sec-
5 retary may redact the name of any signatory to
6 the dissent channel cable specified in subpara-
7 graph (A).

8 (2) DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW; PUBLICA-
9 TION.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
12 Secretary of State shall—

13 (i) complete a declassification review
14 to determine what, if any, information con-
15 tained within the dissent channel cable or
16 the official response specified in paragraph
17 (1)(A) may be declassified in accordance
18 with the standards under subsection (d);

19 (ii) declassify any information so de-
20 termined; and

21 (iii) publish on a publicly available
22 Internet website of the Department of
23 State such dissent channel cable and offi-
24 cial response, in unclassified form and con-
25 taining, in addition to any information pre-

1 viously unclassified, any other information
2 declassified as a result of such declassifica-
3 tion review.

4 (B) REQUIRED REDACTIONS.—In pub-
5 lishing the dissent channel cable pursuant to
6 subparagraph (A)(iii), the Secretary shall re-
7 duct the name, and any other personally identi-
8 fiable information, of each signatory to such
9 dissent channel cable.

10 (c) DECLASSIFICATION AND PUBLICATION OF
11 AFTER-ACTION REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—

12 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment
13 of this Act, the Secretary of State shall—

14 (1) complete a declassification review to deter-
15 mine what, if any, additional information contained
16 within the after-action review of the Department of
17 State developed with respect to the Afghanistan
18 withdrawal (in this section, referred to as the “after-
19 action review”) may be declassified in accordance
20 with the standards under subsection (d);

21 (2) declassify any information so determined;
22 and

23 (3) publish on a publicly available Internet
24 website of the Department of State a complete
25 version of such after-action review containing, in ad-

1 dition to information previously unclassified, any
2 other information declassified as a result of such de-
3 classification review.

4 (d) STANDARDS FOR DECLASSIFICATION.—In con-
5 ducting each declassification review under this section
6 with respect to given information, the Secretary of State
7 shall declassify such information unless the Secretary de-
8 termines the declassification would be incompatible with
9 the national security interests of the United States or oth-
10 erwise inconsistent with the protection of intelligence
11 sources and methods.