

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1469

Ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. McCAUL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Whereas, throughout the Biden-Harris administration, key White House, National Security Council, Department of State, and Department of Defense officials prioritized the politics and optics of the withdrawal from Afghanistan over the security of United States personnel and civilians on the ground and failed to plan for foreseeable contingencies, causing a chaotic, precipitous withdrawal that resulted in the death of 13 servicemembers and the wound-

ing of 45 servicemembers in the Abbey Gate terrorist attack on August 26, 2021;

Whereas, in 2020, the Trump administration negotiated a conditional plan to withdraw from Afghanistan called “The Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan”, commonly known as the Doha Agreement, which required the Taliban to cease terrorist activities, renounce linkages with al Qaeda, reduce violence, establish a ceasefire, and participate in Afghan-to-Afghan negotiations with the Government of Afghanistan;

Whereas the Biden-Harris administration was determined to withdraw from Afghanistan regardless of the Doha Agreement and the costs of withdrawal;

Whereas, in 2021, under the Biden-Harris administration, Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, baselessly asserted the Taliban would honor their commitments and respect basic human rights;

Whereas, in 2021, President Biden selected National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan to conduct an interagency review of the policy of the United States toward Afghanistan, including the Taliban’s compliance with the Doha Agreement;

Whereas the review process led by National Security Advisor Sullivan, Deputy National Security Advisor Jonathan Finer, and Homeland Security Advisor Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall completely disregarded the failure of the Taliban to comply with the Doha Agreement, did not seek input from key government officials, and blatantly ignored warnings from senior national security experts and allies of the United States that a complete with-

drawal of troops would cause a total unraveling and collapse of the Government of Afghanistan;

Whereas President Biden, supported by Vice President Harris, issued a “go-to-zero order” without any regard for the safety of Americans and without making appropriate plans for noncombatant evacuation operations;

Whereas the Department of State’s leadership responsible for the safety of embassy personnel and civilian evacuation plans included Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State Brian McKeon, and Counselor for the Department of State Derek Chollet;

Whereas, during the military withdrawal from April to July 2021, Secretary of State Blinken, Ambassador Ross Wilson, other Department of State officials, and the National Security Council willfully disregarded warnings of the Taliban’s imminent takeover in Afghanistan and instead increased the footprint of Embassy Kabul rather than plan for a noncombatant evacuation operation;

Whereas, in early August 2021, as the Taliban made gains across Afghanistan, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl, and other senior officials purportedly advised that positioning United States military forces to assist with a noncombatant evacuation operation was not immediately necessary, contrary to urgent warnings from United States military personnel on the ground;

Whereas Secretary of State Blinken and his State Department did not call for a noncombatant evacuation operation until the Taliban began marching into Kabul on August 15, 2021;

Whereas Secretary of State Blinken and his State Department had not made determinations about who would be eligible for evacuation, and had not effectuated agreements with third countries to serve as transit points prior to the noncombatant evacuation operation;

Whereas the willful refusal to plan for a timely civilian evacuation caused chaos in Kabul and an untenable security situation at the Hamid Karzai International Airport;

Whereas, on August 26, 2021, the Biden-Harris administration's chaotic, precipitous withdrawal, willful refusal to properly plan for a noncombatant evacuation operation, and decision to rely on the Taliban to run checkpoints surrounding the airport resulted in a terrorist attack by ISIS-K at Abbey Gate that killed 185 people, including 13 United States servicemembers;

Whereas the suicide bomber at Abbey Gate was among thousands of militants released by the Taliban from Afghan prisons as they marched on Kabul;

Whereas, in August 2021, the Biden-Harris administration left behind approximately 1,000 Americans;

Whereas the Biden-Harris administration left behind \$7,000,000,000 worth of United States weapons and up to \$57,000,000 in United States currency that could be used by the Taliban and other terrorist regimes;

Whereas President Biden, Vice President Harris, National Security Advisor Sullivan, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki, White House National Security Communications Advisor, and Defense Department Spokesperson John Kirby, and the Department of State Spokesperson Ned Price repeatedly and materially misrepresented to

the people of the United States the state of affairs in Afghanistan and the withdrawal;

Whereas, since the Biden-Harris administration's withdrawal, the Taliban has carried out brutal reprisal killings of Afghan Government officials and individuals who assisted the United States and our allies, and created a safe haven for terrorist groups who seek to harm the United States;

Whereas the Biden administration had been warned the precipitous withdrawal would cause women's rights to "go back to the Stone Age", and since the withdrawal, women's rights have been rescinded and child marriages have skyrocketed;

Whereas the Biden-Harris administration's catastrophic withdrawal has emboldened our adversaries, and once again made the United States vulnerable to terrorist attacks;

Whereas the Biden-Harris administration refuses any accountability for the disastrous withdrawal; instead, Under Secretary of Defense Colin Kahl said "Americans should be immensely proud" and Press Secretary Psaki stated the withdrawal was "a success";

Whereas Vice President Harris said she was the last person in the room before President Biden made the final decision on the withdrawal and was described by an advisor as being "100 percent all in" on the decision; and

Whereas our Nation's most senior leaders, including the President and Vice President, failed in their responsibilities on behalf of the people of the United States and have not been held accountable for the death and destruction their failures caused: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives con-
2 demns each of the following individuals for their role in
3 the Biden-Harris administration's withdrawal from Af-
4 ghanistan and noncombatant evacuation operation, which
5 led to the injury and death of United States
6 servicemembers, injury and death of Afghan civilians,
7 abandonment of American civilians and our Afghan allies,
8 and harm to the national security and international stat-
9 ure of the United States:

10 (1) Joseph R. Biden, President of the United
11 States.

12 (2) Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the
13 United States.

14 (3) Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor.

15 (4) Jonathan Finer, Assistant to the President
16 and Deputy National Security Advisor.

17 (5) Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Assistant to
18 the President for Homeland Security and Deputy
19 National Security Advisor.

20 (6) John Kirby, White House National Security
21 Communications Advisor; former Spokesperson, the
22 Department of Defense.

23 (7) Jen Psaki, Former Press Secretary, White
24 House.

1 (8) Antony Blinken, Secretary, the Department
2 of State.

3 (9) Brian McKeon, Former Deputy Secretary of
4 State for Management and Resources, the Depart-
5 ment of State.

6 (10) Ross Wilson, Ambassador and former
7 Chief of Mission to United States Embassy Kabul,
8 Afghanistan, the Department of State.

9 (11) Zalmay Khalilzad, Ambassador and former
10 United States Special Representative for Afghani-
11 stan Reconciliation, the Department of State.

12 (12) Ned Price, Deputy to the United States
13 Representative to the United Nations and former
14 Spokesperson, the Department of State.

15 (13) Lloyd Austin, Secretary, the Department
16 of Defense.

17 (14) Derek Chollet Chief of Staff to the Sec-
18 retary, the Department of Defense; Former Coun-
19 selor, the Department of State.

20 (15) Colin Kahl, Former Under Secretary of
21 Defense for Policy, the Department of Defense.

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