

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7343

To limit the use of funds to reduce the number of Armed Forces deployed to Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2020

Mr. CROW (for himself, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. WALTZ, and Mrs. DAVIS of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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

A BILL

To limit the use of funds to reduce the number of Armed Forces deployed to Afghanistan, 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 Partner-
5 ship and Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO REDUCE DE-**
2 **PLOYMENT TO AFGHANISTAN.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) it is in the national security interests of the
6 United States to deny terrorists safe haven in Af-
7 ghanistan, protect the United States homeland, up-
8 hold the United States partnership with the Govern-
9 ment of Afghanistan and cooperation with the Af-
10 ghan National Defense and Security Forces, and
11 protect the hard-fought rights of women, girls, and
12 other vulnerable populations in Afghanistan;

13 (2) a rapid military drawdown and a lack of
14 United States commitment to the security and sta-
15 bility of Afghanistan would undermine diplomatic ef-
16 forts for peace;

17 (3) the current agreement between the United
18 States and the Taliban does not provide for the ap-
19 propriate protections for vulnerable populations,
20 does not create conditions for the rejection of vio-
21 lence and prevention of terrorist safe havens, and
22 does not represent a realistic diplomatic solution,
23 based on verifiable facts and conditions on the
24 ground, that provides for long-term stability; and

25 (4) the Administration has a constitutional obli-
26 gation to provide Congress with timely and com-

1 prehensive information on the status of security op-
2 erations and diplomatic efforts in a form that can be
3 transparently communicated to the American people.

4 (b) LIMITATION.—Until the date on which the Sec-
5 retary of Defense, in concurrence with each covered offi-
6 cial, submits the report described in subsection (c) to the
7 appropriate congressional committees, none of the
8 amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year
9 2020 or 2021 for the Department of Defense may be obli-
10 gated or expended for any activity having either of the
11 following effects:

12 (1) Reducing the total number of Armed Forces
13 deployed to Afghanistan below the lesser of—

14 (A) 8,000, or

15 (B) the total number of the Armed Forces
16 deployed as of the date of the enactment of this
17 Act.

18 (2) Reducing the total number of Armed Forces
19 deployed to Afghanistan below 5,000.

20 (c) REPORT.—The report described in this subsection
21 shall include each of the following:

22 (1) A certification that the intended withdrawal
23 of the United States Armed Forces in Afghani-
24 stan—

1 (A) will not compromise or otherwise nega-
2 tively affect the ongoing United States counter-
3 terrorism mission against the Islamic State, al-
4 Qaeda, and associated forces;

5 (B) will not unduly increase the risk to
6 United States personnel in Afghanistan;

7 (C) will not increase the risk for the ex-
8 pansion of existing or formation of new ter-
9 rorist safe havens inside Afghanistan;

10 (D) will be undertaken with the consulta-
11 tion and coordination of allies supporting the
12 United States- and North Atlantic Treaty Or-
13 ganization-led missions; and

14 (E) is in the best interest of United States
15 national security and in furtherance of United
16 States policy toward Afghanistan for achieving
17 an enduring diplomatic solution.

18 (2) An analysis of the impact that the intended
19 withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Af-
20 ghanistan would have on each of the following:

21 (A) The threat posed by the Taliban and
22 terrorist organizations, including by each cov-
23 ered terrorist organization, to—

24 (i) the United States homeland;

25 (ii) United States interests abroad;

1 (iii) allied countries of the North At-
2 lantic Treaty Organization;

3 (iv) the Government of Afghanistan;
4 and

5 (v) regional peace and security.

6 (B) The status of the human and civil
7 rights (including access to voting, education,
8 justice, and economic opportunities) of women,
9 girls, people with disabilities, religious and eth-
10 nic minorities, and other vulnerable populations
11 in Afghanistan.

12 (C) Transparent, credible, and inclusive
13 political processes in Afghanistan.

14 (D) The capacity of the Afghan National
15 Defense and Security Forces to effectively—

16 (i) prevent or defend against attacks
17 by the Taliban or by terrorist organiza-
18 tions (including by each covered terrorist
19 organization) on civilian populations;

20 (ii) prevent the takeover of one or
21 more provincial capitals by the Taliban or
22 by associated organizations;

23 (iii) conduct counterterrorism oper-
24 ations necessary to deny safe harbor to ter-

1 rorist organizations, including each covered
2 terrorist organization; and

3 (iv) maintain institutional order and
4 discipline.

5 (E) The influence of malign state actors on
6 the sovereignty of Afghanistan and the strategic
7 national security interests of the United States
8 in the region.

9 (F) Any other matter the Secretary of De-
10 fense, in concurrence with each covered official,
11 determines appropriate.

12 (3) An assessment of the manner and extent to
13 which—

14 (A) the Taliban has publicly renounced al-
15 Qaeda;

16 (B) the Taliban has made any efforts to
17 break with al-Qaeda since February 29, 2020,
18 and a description of these efforts;

19 (C) any senior al-Qaeda leaders, including
20 Ayman al-Zawahiri, or any leaders of al-Qaeda
21 in the Indian Subcontinent, have been present
22 in Afghanistan since February 29, 2020, and if
23 so, the names of the leaders, the dates they
24 were present in Afghanistan, and their other lo-
25 cations since February 29, 2020;

1 (D) any members of al-Qaeda, al-Qaeda in
2 the Indian Subcontinent, al-Qaeda-affiliated
3 groups, or any covered terrorist organization
4 have, since February 29, 2020—

5 (i) fought alongside, trained alongside,
6 otherwise operated alongside, or sheltered
7 with the Taliban in Afghanistan;

8 (ii) conducted attacks inside Afghani-
9 stan, and, if so, the dates and locations of
10 such attacks;

11 (iii) operated training camps or re-
12 lated facilities inside Afghanistan, and, if
13 so, the locations of those camps or facili-
14 ties;

15 (iv) traveled from Afghanistan to
16 Pakistan or Iran, or from Pakistan or Iran
17 to Afghanistan;

18 (v) continued to have ties to any
19 Taliban leaders or members located in
20 Pakistan; or

21 (vi) continued to work with the
22 Haqqani Network;

23 (E) any of the prisoners released by the
24 Government of Afghanistan as a result of the

1 February 29, 2020, agreement between the
2 United States and Taliban—

3 (i) are members of, or have ties to,
4 any covered terrorist organizations or any
5 other organization designated by the
6 United States as a foreign terrorist organi-
7 zation pursuant to section 219 of the Im-
8 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
9 1189) and, if so, the names of such former
10 prisoners and the reasons for their deten-
11 tion inside Afghanistan; or

12 (ii) are suspected of taking part in at-
13 tacks against American service members or
14 civilians or attacks that caused American
15 casualties and, if so, the names of the pris-
16 oners, the date and location of such at-
17 tacks, and the number of American casual-
18 ties attributed to such attacks;

19 (F) any of the prisoners the Taliban has
20 requested for release, but who have not yet been
21 released as of the date of the enactment of this
22 Act, are members of, or have ties to, any cov-
23 ered terrorist organizations or any other organi-
24 zation designated by the United States as a for-
25 eign terrorist organization pursuant to section

1 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
2 U.S.C. 1189) and, if so, the names of the pris-
3 oners and the organizations to which they are
4 affiliated; and

5 (G) senior Taliban leaders, including mem-
6 bers of the Haqqani Network, who are located
7 in Pakistan continue to exercise control over the
8 insurgency in Afghanistan.

9 (4) The number of attacks that the Taliban has
10 carried out in Afghanistan since February 29, 2020,
11 including the location and date of each attack as
12 well as casualties related to each attack.

13 (d) FORM.—The report described in subsection (c)
14 shall be submitted in unclassified form without any des-
15 ignation relating to dissemination control, but may contain
16 a classified annex that is accompanied by an unclassified
17 summary of the annex.

18 (e) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense may waive
19 the limitation under subsection (b) if, in consultation with
20 the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Com-
21 mander of United States Forces, Afghanistan, the Sec-
22 retary—

23 (1) determines that the waiver is—

1 (A) necessary due to an imminent and ex-
2 traordinary threat to members of the United
3 States Armed Forces in the Afghanistan; or

4 (B) vital to the national security interests
5 of the United States; and

6 (2) submits to the appropriate congressional
7 committees a detailed, written justification for such
8 waiver, not later than 10 days after the effective
9 date of the waiver; and

10 (3) in the case of a determination described in
11 paragraph (1)(A), includes in such justification each
12 of the following:

13 (A) A detailed description of the change in
14 threat assessment leading to the determination.

15 (B) An explanation for the reasons for
16 which existing force protection mechanisms
17 were not sufficient to reasonably ensure the
18 safety of members of the Armed Forces.

19 (C) The steps that have been taken to en-
20 sure that United States equipment does not fall
21 into enemy hands.

22 (D) A description of the coordination with
23 allied countries of the North Atlantic Treaty
24 Organization and with other allies and partners
25 with respect to the withdrawal.

1 (E) A description of the coordination with
2 the Department of State to ensure the safety of
3 American citizens in Afghanistan in light of and
4 subsequent to the withdrawal.

5 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
7 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
8 mittees” means—

9 (A) the Committee on Armed Services of
10 the House of Representatives and the Com-
11 mittee on Armed Services of the Senate;

12 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
13 the House of Representatives and the Com-
14 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

15 (C) the Permanent Select Committee on
16 Intelligence of the House of Representatives
17 and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the
18 Senate.

19 (2) COVERED OFFICIAL.—The term “covered
20 official” means—

21 (A) the Secretary of State;

22 (B) the Director of National Intelligence;

23 (C) the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
24 Staff;

1 (D) the Commander of United States Cen-
2 tral Command;

3 (E) the Commander of United States
4 Forces, Afghanistan; and

5 (F) the United States Permanent Rep-
6 resentative to the North Atlantic Treaty Orga-
7 nization.

8 (3) COVERED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The
9 term “covered terrorist organization” means any of
10 the following:

11 (A) al-Qaeda and affiliates, including al-
12 Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent.

13 (B) The Islamic State and affiliates.

14 (C) Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan.

15 (D) The Haqqani Network.

16 (E) Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

17 (F) Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement.

18 (G) Ansralluh.

19 (H) Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (including under
20 the alias Jamaat-ud-Dawa).

21 (I) Jaish-e-Mohammed.

22 (J) Harakat ul-Jihad-Islami.

23 (K) Harakat ul-Mujahidin.

24 (L) Jaysh al-Adl.

25 (M) Lashkar-i-Jhangvi.

- 1 (N) Mullah Nasir Group.
- 2 (O) Hafiz Gul Bahadar Group.
- 3 (P) Lashkar-i-Islam.
- 4 (Q) Islamic Jihad Union Group.
- 5 (R) Jamaat-ud-Dawa al Quran.
- 6 (S) Ansarul Islam.

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