

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 619

To require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 1, 2023

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LEE, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed

A BILL

To require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID–19, 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 “COVID–19 Origin Act
5 of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) identifying the origin of Coronavirus Dis-
2 ease 2019 (COVID–19) is critical for preventing a
3 similar pandemic from occurring in the future;

4 (2) there is reason to believe the COVID–19
5 pandemic may have originated at the Wuhan Insti-
6 tute of Virology; and

7 (3) the Director of National Intelligence should
8 declassify and make available to the public as much
9 information as possible about the origin of COVID–
10 19 so the United States and like-minded countries
11 can—

12 (A) identify the origin of COVID–19 as ex-
13 peditiously as possible, and

14 (B) use that information to take all appro-
15 priate measures to prevent a similar pandemic
16 from occurring again.

17 **SEC. 3. DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION RELATED TO**
18 **THE ORIGIN OF COVID–19.**

19 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence
21 shall—

22 (1) declassify any and all information relating
23 to potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Vi-
24 rology and the origin of the Coronavirus Disease
25 2019 (COVID–19), including—

1 (A) activities performed by the Wuhan In-
2 stitute of Virology with or on behalf of the Peo-
3 ple’s Liberation Army;

4 (B) coronavirus research or other related
5 activities performed at the Wuhan Institute of
6 Virology prior to the outbreak of COVID–19;
7 and

8 (C) researchers at the Wuhan Institute of
9 Virology who fell ill in autumn 2019, including
10 for any such researcher—

11 (i) the researcher’s name;

12 (ii) the researcher’s symptoms;

13 (iii) the date of the onset of the re-
14 searcher’s symptoms;

15 (iv) the researcher’s role at the
16 Wuhan Institute of Virology;

17 (v) whether the researcher was in-
18 volved with or exposed to coronavirus re-
19 search at the Wuhan Institute of Virology;

20 (vi) whether the researcher visited a
21 hospital while they were ill; and

22 (vii) a description of any other actions
23 taken by the researcher that may suggest
24 they were experiencing a serious illness at
25 the time; and

1 (2) submit to Congress an unclassified report
2 that contains—

3 (A) all of the information described under
4 paragraph (1); and

5 (B) only such redactions as the Director
6 determines necessary to protect sources and
7 methods.

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