

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5006

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

JULY 27, 2023

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. MAST, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. MILLS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW AND PUBLICATION**
4 **OF MATERIALS RELATING TO AFGHANISTAN**
5 **WITHDRAWAL.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the American people deserve to understand the
8 events and decision-making which resulted in the chaotic

1 withdrawal of United States personnel from Afghanistan
2 in 2021.

3 (b) DISSENT CHANNEL CABLE RELATING TO AF-
4 GHANISTAN WITHDRAWAL.—

5 (1) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—

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

14 (i) the dissent channel cable of the
15 Department of State written on or about
16 July 13, 2021, describing the likely con-
17 sequences of United States withdrawal
18 from Afghanistan; and

19 (ii) the official response of the De-
20 partment of State with respect to such dis-
21 sent channel cable.

22 (B) AUTHORIZED REDACTIONS.—The Sec-
23 retary may redact the name of any signatory to
24 the dissent channel cable specified in subpara-
25 graph (A).

1 (2) DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW; PUBLICA-
2 TION.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
5 Secretary of State shall—

6 (i) complete a declassification review
7 to determine what, if any, information con-
8 tained within the dissent channel cable or
9 the official response specified in paragraph
10 (1)(A) may be declassified in accordance
11 with the standards under subsection (d);

12 (ii) declassify any information so de-
13 termined; and

14 (iii) publish on a publicly available
15 internet website of the Department of
16 State such dissent channel cable and offi-
17 cial response, in unclassified form and con-
18 taining, in addition to any information pre-
19 viously unclassified, any other information
20 declassified as a result of such declassifica-
21 tion review.

22 (B) REQUIRED REDACTIONS.—In pub-
23 lishing the dissent channel cable pursuant to
24 subparagraph (A)(iii), the Secretary shall re-
25 duct the name, and any other personally identi-

1 fiable information, of each signatory to such
2 dissent channel cable.

3 (c) DECLASSIFICATION AND PUBLICATION OF
4 AFTER-ACTION REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—
5 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment
6 of this Act, the Secretary of State shall—

7 (1) complete a declassification review to deter-
8 mine what, if any, additional information contained
9 within the after-action review of the Department of
10 State developed with respect to the Afghanistan
11 withdrawal (in this section, referred to as the “after-
12 action review”) may be declassified in accordance
13 with the standards under subsection (d);

14 (2) declassify any information so determined;
15 and

16 (3) publish on a publicly available internet
17 website of the Department of State a complete
18 version of such after-action review containing, in ad-
19 dition to information previously unclassified, any
20 other information declassified as a result of such de-
21 classification review.

22 (d) STANDARDS FOR DECLASSIFICATION.—In con-
23 ducting each declassification review under this section
24 with respect to given information, the Secretary of State
25 shall declassify such information unless the Secretary de-

1 terminates the declassification would be incompatible with
2 the national security interests of the United States or oth-
3 erwise inconsistent with the protection of intelligence
4 sources and methods.

○