

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1348

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

APRIL 22, 2021

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence

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 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Department of State released a fact
9 sheet on January 15, 2021, about the Wuhan Insti-
10 tute of Virology (WIV) which stated the following:

1 (A) “The U.S. government has reason to
2 believe that several researchers inside the WIV
3 became sick in autumn 2019, before the first
4 identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms
5 consistent with both COVID–19 and common
6 seasonal illnesses.”.

7 (B) “WIV researchers conducted experi-
8 ments involving RaTG13, the bat coronavirus
9 identified by the WIV in January 2020 as its
10 closest sample to SARS-CoV-2.”.

11 (C) “Despite the WIV presenting itself as
12 a civilian institution, the United States has de-
13 termined that the WIV has collaborated on pub-
14 lications and secret projects with China’s mili-
15 tary.”.

16 (2) Former Director of the Centers for Disease
17 Control and Prevention, Robert Redfield, stated in
18 March 2021 that, “the most likely etiology of this
19 pathogen in Wuhan was from a laboratory” and
20 noted that, “[i]t is not unusual for respiratory
21 pathogens that are being worked on in a laboratory
22 to infect the laboratory worker.”.

23 (3) Director-General of the World Health Orga-
24 nization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus acknowl-
25 edged in March 2021 that the Coronavirus Disease

1 2019 (COVID–19) may have originated in a labora-
2 tory and said this hypothesis “requires further inves-
3 tigation, potentially with additional missions involv-
4 ing specialist experts.”.

5 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

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

13 (3) the Director of National Intelligence should
14 declassify and make available to the public as much
15 information as possible about the origin of COVID–
16 19 so the United States and like-minded countries
17 can—

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

20 (B) use that information to take all appro-
21 priate measures to prevent a similar pandemic
22 from occurring again.

1 **SEC. 4. DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION RELATED TO**
2 **THE ORIGIN OF COVID-19.**

3 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence
5 shall—

6 (1) declassify any and all information relating
7 to potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Vi-
8 rology and the origin of the Coronavirus Disease
9 2019 (COVID-19), including—

10 (A) activities performed by the Wuhan In-
11 stitute of Virology with or on behalf of the Peo-
12 ple's Liberation Army;

13 (B) coronavirus research or other related
14 activities performed at the Wuhan Institute of
15 Virology prior to the outbreak of COVID-19;
16 and

17 (C) researchers at the Wuhan Institute of
18 Virology who fell ill in autumn 2019, including
19 for any such researcher—

20 (i) the researcher's name;

21 (ii) the researcher's symptoms;

22 (iii) the date of the onset of the re-
23 searcher's symptoms;

24 (iv) the researcher's role at the
25 Wuhan Institute of Virology;

1 (v) whether the researcher was in-
2 volved with or exposed to coronavirus re-
3 search at the Wuhan Institute of Virology;

4 (vi) whether the researcher visited a
5 hospital while they were ill; and

6 (vii) a description of any other actions
7 taken by the researcher that may suggest
8 they were experiencing a serious illness at
9 the time; and

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

12 (A) all of the information described under
13 paragraph (1); and

14 (B) only such redactions as the Director
15 determines necessary to protect sources and
16 methods without altering or obscuring in any
17 way the information described under paragraph
18 (1).

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