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One Hundred Seventeenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[www.foreignaffairs.house.gov](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov)

February 17, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

The recent dismissal by both yourself and White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki of the first-hand accounts and interviews which informed the Department of Defense's Abbey Gate investigation and After-Action reports is appalling. These soldiers, sailors, and Marines did everything humanly possible to carry out their mission despite the impossible situation your administration's miscalculations and strategic blunders placed them in. We therefore find your efforts to denigrate and downplay their sworn statements regarding the lack of urgency and adequate planning they witnessed firsthand particularly shameful.

These interviews make it abundantly clear that, despite your attempts to deny it, your administration failed to take the necessary steps to effectively prepare for the withdrawal or to realistically respond to the Taliban's lightning-fast advance across Afghanistan. As such, the American people deserve to know why your White House has rejected these firsthand accounts and asserted that no official After-Action Report on the withdrawal exists, as Mrs. Psaki reiterated on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The American public also deserves to see a clear accounting of every step that was taken by your administration to plan for the fall out of your decision to withdraw from Afghanistan on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The American people, especially those servicemembers that suffered through the events in August whose accounts you've denied, do not deserve the utter lack of accountability from your administration for what took place.

Further contributing to the appearance that your administration is attempting to bury your

failures in Afghanistan is the lack of responsiveness from your appointees at both the State Department and the National Security Council. We have sent an array of letters requesting information on the Afghanistan withdrawal. Though the letters have specific and detailed questions, they have either received a standardized response that does not address a single individual question posed or have received no answer at all. The refusal to provide information to Congress, which has a constitutionally mandated oversight responsibility, is deeply concerning.

In light of these attempts by your administration to deny, obscure, or disregard the facts surrounding the withdrawal and chaotic evacuation, we urge you to be forthright with both the American people and Congress by answering the questions that have long been ignored. We urge you to take direct responsibility for the chaos surrounding the withdrawal from Afghanistan instead of ignoring the firsthand accounts of the brave men and women who served there. Your upcoming State of the Union provides an opportunity to talk directly to Congress and the American people; you should seize it.

Sincerely,



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Michael T. McCaul  
Ranking Member  
House Foreign Affairs  
Committee



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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



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Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



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Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



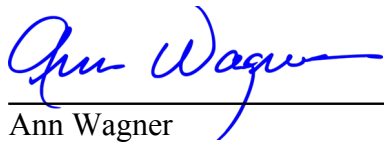
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Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



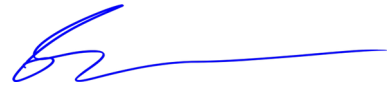
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Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



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Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



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Brian J. Mast  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



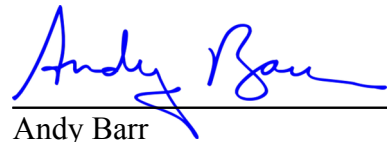
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Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



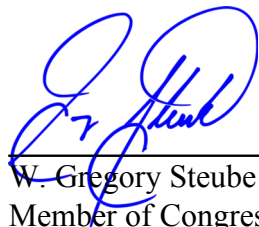
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Mark E. Green, MD  
Member of Congress



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Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



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Peter Meijer M.C.  
Member of Congress



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Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



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Ronny L. Jackson  
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Young Kim  
Member of Congress