

UNCLASSIFIED

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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July 19, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Austin,

In December of last year, Congressman Mike Turner, Lead Republican of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, requested that the Department of Defense (DoD) work with the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) to declassify DoD material contained in SIGAR's classified supplements to its Quarterly Reports and make this information publicly available.

It is our understanding that this has yet to be done. We are seeking clarity as to why that is the case.

SIGAR has been mandated by Congress to investigate the root causes of the rapid collapse of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) and Afghan government and to provide a comprehensive assessment to Congress and the American public. There must be a full accounting of U.S. government's investments in the ANDSF and Afghan government and an understanding of why those efforts failed in such rapid and dramatic fashion.

It is unclear why the DoD needs this information to remain classified and withheld from the public. Most of the information contained in these supplemental annexes was classified by the DoD in 2017 at the request of the former Afghan president and in agreement with the U.S. Forces-Afghanistan Commanding General. Those organizations no longer exist, and there appears to be no compelling reason for this information to be withheld from public release.

To that end, we request that you either:

- a) Provide the date you expect to comply with this request and declassify the SIGAR supplements, or
- b) Provide a detailed report outlining the justification for not declassifying these supplements.

After twenty years of support, the investment of over \$140 billion dollars, and the loss of thousands of U.S. service member's lives, the American people deserve a full and open

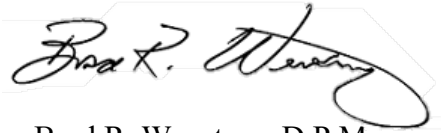
evaluation of why the ANDSF and the Afghan Government withered and collapsed so rapidly and these reports are necessary to conduct such an open evaluation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

Enclosure: Representative Turner's letter to Secretary of Defense dated 8 December 2021