
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 140 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY O'NEAL, RYAN, LEWIS DELROSSO, PENNYCUICK, OWLETT,
HAMM, ROTHMAN, KERWIN, STAATS, KAUFFMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
JAMES, ECKER, GROVE, MALONEY, KAIL, ROWE, SONNEY, SAYLOR,
METCALFE, BERNSTINE, RAPP AND MOUL, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning President Joseph Biden's failure to heed the advice
2 of military and intelligence advisors about the speed and
3 nature of the Taliban offensive, leading to a disorganized,
4 chaotic and abrupt evacuation of United States personnel and
5 Afghan allies.

6 WHEREAS, Despite increasing Taliban violence in the first
7 three months of 2021 and intelligence that the Taliban and al-
8 Qaida were maintaining close ties, on April 14, 2021, President
9 Biden announced a full United States troop withdrawal from
10 Afghanistan by September 11, 2021; and

11 WHEREAS, In President Biden's April 14, 2021, announcement of
12 full United States troop withdrawal, he stated, "We will not
13 conduct a hasty rush to the exit" and "We'll do it - we'll do it
14 responsibly, deliberately, and safely," flatly denying the
15 assessments from his own intelligence community about prospects
16 for the fall of the government in Kabul; and

17 WHEREAS, On July 6, 2021, the United States military withdrew
18 from Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, reportedly without notifying

1 the base's new Afghan commander; and

2 WHEREAS, On July 8, 2021, President Biden said that "There's
3 going to be no circumstance where you see people being lifted
4 off the roof of a embassy in the - of the United States from
5 Afghanistan," adding "the likelihood there's going to be the
6 Taliban overrunning everything and owning the whole country is
7 highly unlikely" and moved up the September 11, 2021, withdrawal
8 date to another arbitrary date of August 31, 2021; and

9 WHEREAS, On July 12, 2021, President Biden ordered 4-star
10 General Austin Miller, Commander of NATO's Resolute Support
11 Mission and United States Forces-Afghanistan, to relinquish his
12 position and depart Afghanistan, leaving the remaining United
13 States presence without a seasoned leader in the face of a
14 growing Taliban offensive; and

15 WHEREAS, On August 6, 2021, the first provincial capital,
16 Zaranj, fell to the Taliban since the signing of the United
17 States-Taliban agreement, leading to a violent onslaught of
18 offensives throughout other Afghan provinces; and

19 WHEREAS, On August 15, 2021, the United States Embassy in
20 Kabul was evacuated and Taliban fighters soon stood outside
21 chanting "death to America"; and

22 WHEREAS, As of August 23, 2021, the Department of State and
23 the Department of Defense were unable to provide the number of
24 United States citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPRs)
25 remaining in Afghanistan, including the status of Mark Frerichs,
26 who is held hostage, an estimate of how long it will take to
27 evacuate this number of citizens and LPRs and what efforts are
28 being made to secure their return to the United States; and

29 WHEREAS, The Biden administration received countless letters,
30 calls and oversight questions from bipartisan members of

1 Congress over the last seven months on plans for the withdrawal
2 that received minimal response; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania condemn:

5 (1) President Joseph Biden's failure to heed the advice
6 of military and intelligence advisors about the speed and
7 nature of the Taliban offensive, leading to a disorganized,
8 chaotic and abrupt evacuation of United States personnel and
9 Afghan allies.

10 (2) President Biden's inability to present a coherent
11 plan to prevent a Taliban takeover or prepare for the long-
12 term counter-terrorism effects of a withdrawal, to
13 effectively plan for the evacuation of United States citizens
14 or to adequately respond to concerns from Congress about the
15 need to rapidly take steps to evacuate our Afghan allies
16 following his announcement of full United States troop
17 withdrawal.

18 (3) The damage done to United States credibility,
19 partnerships and national security by President Biden's
20 abandonment of our Afghan allies, the failure to consult with
21 our NATO partners and the creation of a vacuum for terrorist
22 networks and other United States adversaries to thrive in;
23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call on the President to conduct a
26 multiagency accounting of United States military equipment and
27 other resources left behind in Afghanistan, now in the hands of
28 the Taliban, or other groups, and immediately present a clear
29 plan to Congress of how he intends to fill the intelligence gaps
30 created by this chaotic withdrawal; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call on President Biden to commit
3 to ensuring the full evacuation of any remaining United States
4 citizens and at-risk Afghans and allies from Afghanistan and to
5 utilize all available and necessary resources to achieve this
6 mission.