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United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

September 08, 2021

Senator Jack Reed
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 228
Washington D.C. 20510

Chairman Reed,

It is necessary and appropriate for Congress to examine the manner in which our military mission ended in Afghanistan. We should do so with transparency, candor, and a dedication to ascertaining the facts without regard to politics.

We understand that in the coming months, many committees will claim the authority to ask questions regarding our military's withdrawal. Yet, because our committee bears the special responsibility of authorizing and overseeing America's armed forces, we acutely feel the obligation to seek answers. The American people, and in particular many of those who serve our country in uniform, are hurting, angry, and disappointed. We owe them a clear and comprehensive understanding of what happened, why, and how best to learn from these events for the future. Time is of the essence. These hearings should be our top priority when the Senate reconvenes.

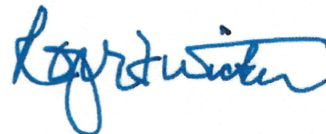
We write to formally request that the Senate Armed Services Committee fully exercise its oversight authority by holding both opened and closed hearings on this matter and that our committee ask the Department of Defense to preserve any and all records pertaining to the conclusion of our operations in Afghanistan. In particular, we seek sworn testimony from Secretary Lloyd Austin, General Mark Milley, General Frank McKenzie, Jr., and General A. Scott Miller.

We owe it to our nation, those who served, their families, and our allies and partners who fought alongside us, to preserve the records of how our fight in Afghanistan concluded. The insights we gather will help prevent future loss of American blood and treasure, a solemn responsibility and sacred trust we believe all members of our committee will seek to uphold.

Sincerely,



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Roger Wicker
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator