

By: Senator T. Garner

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO CONDEMN PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S POOR EXECUTION OF
THE UNITED STATES' WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN.

Subtitle

TO CONDEMN PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S POOR
EXECUTION OF THE UNITED STATES'
WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN.

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, terrorists for al-Qaeda, a network of Islamic extremists granted sanctuary in Afghanistan by the Taliban:

(1) Flew hijacked airliners into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Virginia; and

(2) Crashed one (1) hijacked airliner into a field near Indian Lake and Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2001, President George W. Bush announced military action - Operation Enduring Freedom - to remove the Taliban regime and eliminate al-Qaeda from Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, just over two thousand three hundred (2,300) American service members' lives were lost in the twenty-year conflict in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the casualties in Afghanistan resulted from two (2) official military operations: Operation Enduring Freedom, a conflict that lasted from late 2001 until 2014, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, which continued operations in Afghanistan until August 30, 2021; and



WHEREAS, American military personnel from every single state were killed in the twenty (20) years of military operations in Afghanistan, including twenty-six (26) service members from Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020, President Trump's administration negotiated an agreement with the Taliban to withdraw all United States military troops, its allies, and coalition partners from Afghanistan by May 1, 2021, in return for the Taliban's promise to prevent any group or individual, including al-Qaeda, from using Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2021, President Biden announced that all troops were to be removed from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021, four (4) months after the Trump administration's May 1 withdrawal date; and

WHEREAS, in response to President Biden's decision to delay withdrawal until September 11, 2021, the Taliban released a statement saying that failure to complete withdrawal by May 1 "opens the way for [the Taliban] to take every necessary countermeasure, hence the American side will be held responsible for all future consequences"; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2021, the United States military confirmed its evacuation of Bagram Airfield, the largest airfield in Afghanistan, leaving:

(1) The civilian airport in Kabul as the only safe way in and out of the country; and

(2) Any American citizens, United States allies, and United States service members that had not left the country with little military protection; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, President Biden:

(1) Moved up the timeline for full troop withdrawal to August 31, 2021;

(2) Assured Americans that a Taliban takeover of Afghanistan "is not inevitable"; and

(3) Denied that United States intelligence assessed that the Afghan government would likely collapse; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2021, the Taliban took control of the capital of Nimroz province and in a matter of days captured all major cities; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2021, the:

(1) Taliban fighters entered the Afghanistan capital, Kabul, and took over the city;

(2) Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani, fled the country and the Afghan government collapsed; and

(3) United States evacuated diplomats from its embassy by helicopter; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Afghan citizens rushed to the airport in an effort to flee the country for fear the Taliban would:

(1) Target them for their work with international governments and organizations; or

(2) Return Afghanistan to the Taliban's previous brutal regime; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2021, amid evacuations of Americans and United States allies, the Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K) set off two (2) suicide bombs outside Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport, killing more than one hundred seventy (170) people, including thirteen (13) United States service members, innocent civilians, and United States allies; and

WHEREAS, the August 26, 2021, attack at the airport in Kabul marked one (1) of the deadliest days for American military forces in the past decade of the twenty-year war in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, during the last days of the war there was a series of misjudgments made by President Biden that prevented an orderly withdrawal from Afghanistan, such as pulling out American troops and prioritizing their safety before evacuating American citizens and United States allies; and

WHEREAS, President Biden is responsible for the poorly executed and chaotic withdrawal that became tragic and deadly, resulting in the worst

United States foreign policy mistake in modern history,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate:

(1) Condemn the actions of President Biden that resulted in the
worst United States foreign policy mistake in modern history; and

(2) Thank each United States service member for his or her
service and sacrifice.