

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1666

To prohibit the availability of funds for activities in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2017

Mr. JONES (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. LEE, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. CLEAVER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the availability of funds for activities in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The United States has been involved mili-
6 tarily, and with nation building and reconstruction,
7 in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan since 2001.

1 (2) The United States military engagement in
2 Afghanistan began in 2001 under a congressional
3 authorization for the use of military force against
4 “those nations, organizations, or persons [the Presi-
5 dent] determines planned, authorized, committed, or
6 aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on Sep-
7 tember 11, 2001.”.

8 (3) On October 2, 2011, United States Navy
9 Seals killed Osama Bin Laden, the head of Al-
10 Qaeda, the terrorist organization responsible for the
11 September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

12 (4) Since 2001, the United States military and
13 its coalition partners have killed or captured tens of
14 thousands of Al Qaeda, Taliban, and other insur-
15 gents in Afghanistan.

16 (5) In 2014, the United States announced the
17 end of 13 years of combat operations in Afghani-
18 stan.

19 (6) The war in Afghanistan is the longest war
20 in American history.

21 (7) According to the Department of Defense,
22 since 2001, 2,216 United States service members
23 have been killed in Afghanistan, and over 20,049
24 service members have been wounded.

1 (8) Since 2001, 150 coalition personnel, includ-
2 ing United States service members, have been killed
3 by the Afghan security forces personnel that Amer-
4 ican taxpayers are paying to train. Another 189
5 service members have been wounded.

6 (9) Over the past 15 years, nearly \$800 billion
7 of United States taxpayers' money has been spent
8 on Afghanistan.

9 (10) The Special Inspector General for Afghani-
10 stan Reconstruction (SIGAR), John Sopko, has doc-
11 umented billions of dollars of waste, fraud, and
12 abuse of American taxpayers hard-earned money in
13 Afghanistan, which continues to this day. For exam-
14 ple:

15 (A) According to a 2016 USA Today arti-
16 cle entitled "Report cites wasted Pentagon
17 money in Afghanistan", among the more egre-
18 gious examples of boondoggles Sopko cited in-
19 cluded "importing rare blond Italian goats to
20 boost the cashmere industry". The \$6 million
21 program included shipping nine male goats to
22 western Afghanistan from Italy, setting up a
23 farm, lab, and staff to certify their wool.

24 (B) An ongoing SIGAR investigation found
25 that American taxpayers are paying as many as

1 200,000 fictitious Afghan “ghost” soldiers, po-
2 tentially costing hundreds of millions of dollars
3 annually.

4 (11) On May 1, 2012, Afghan President Hamid
5 Karzai and United States President Barack Obama
6 signed the “Enduring Strategic Partnership Agree-
7 ment between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
8 and the United States of America”, which com-
9 mitted the United States to supporting the social
10 and economic development, and security, of Afghani-
11 stan for at least 10 years. The agreement was sub-
12 mitted to the Afghan Parliament, which approved it.
13 However, the agreement was never submitted to,
14 voted on, or approved by the Congress of the United
15 States.

16 (12) The United States continues to maintain
17 a military presence of 8,400 troops in Afghanistan,
18 and continues to annually spend roughly \$43 billion
19 of American taxpayers’ money there. That money
20 funds, among other things, America’s 15-year-long
21 effort to train and equip Afghan military and police
22 forces, as well as a variety of reconstruction and for-
23 eign aid programs.

24 (13) General Charles Krulak, 31st Com-
25 mandant of the United States Marine Corps, has

1 stated, “Attempting to find a true military and po-
2 litical answer to the problems in Afghanistan would
3 take decades, not years, and drain our nation of pre-
4 cious resources . . . with the most precious being
5 our sons and daughters. Simply put, the U.S. cannot
6 solve the Afghan problem . . . no matter how brave
7 and determined our troops are.”.

8 (14) In a January 2017 article in the Wall
9 Street Journal, Hamid Karzai, former President of
10 the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan from 2004 to
11 2014, stated, “The fact is that the U.S. presence in
12 Afghanistan has not brought security to us. It has
13 caused more extremism.”.

14 (15) There has never been a full debate in Con-
15 gress on whether to continue the United States en-
16 gagement in Afghanistan.

17 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR AC-**
18 **TIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—No funds may be made available
20 for activities in Afghanistan after the date that is one year
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

22 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition in subsection (a)
23 shall not apply with respect to—

24 (1) operations of the United States Embassy in
25 Afghanistan; or

1 (2) intelligence gathering activities.

2 (c) WAIVER.—The prohibition in subsection (a) may
3 be waived on a case-by-case basis if—

4 (1) the President submits to Congress a certifi-
5 cation that the availability of funds for the activities
6 described in subsection (a) is in the national inter-
7 ests of the United States; and

8 (2) Congress, within 30 days after receipt of a
9 certification under paragraph (1), enacts a joint res-
10 olution authorizing the availability of funds for the
11 activities described in subsection (a).

12 (d) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—A joint resolution
13 described in subsection (c)(2) and introduced within the
14 appropriate 30-day period shall be considered in the Sen-
15 ate and House of Representatives in accordance with para-
16 graphs (3) through (7) of section 8066(c) of the Depart-
17 ment of Defense Appropriations Act, 1985 (as contained
18 in Public Law 98–473; 98 Stat. 1935), except that in ap-
19 plying and administering such paragraphs—

20 (1) references in such paragraphs to the Com-
21 mittees on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Senate shall be deemed to be
23 references to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
24 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
25 Foreign Relations of the Senate, respectively; and

1 (2) paragraph (5)(B) of such section 8066(c)
2 shall be applied and administered by substituting
3 “not less than eight hours but not more than ten
4 hours” for “not more than ten hours”.

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