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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I am calling for the immediate resignation of your entire national security team. This includes Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley.

Your precipitous, unconditional and disorderly retreat from Afghanistan that I and many of my colleagues warned against publicly for months and which ignored multiple damning intelligence assessments is the most disastrous, consequential and embarrassing American foreign policy catastrophe of our lifetime. Your Administration ignored the obvious risks of an unconditional and abrupt withdrawal and instead prioritized an artificial and politically motivated deadline of September 11, a date certain for withdrawal that I told the Secretary of State in April was less preferable than 364 other possible dates.

I also specifically, repeatedly and publicly called on your Administration to not abandon Bagram Air Base as part of its withdrawal strategy. Again, your national security team ignored that warning. As a result, Afghanistan has descended into total chaos, with the Taliban taking control before we were able to remove all American citizens, our Afghan allies who risked their lives to fight alongside the United States, and all of our weapons, aircraft, vehicles and equipment from the country. And last weekend, we witnessed the largest jailbreak of suicidal jihadists in world history who are now armed with our own weapons.

Worst of all, your surrender of Afghanistan is a slap in the face to the thousands of brave men and women in uniform who served with valor and gallantry in Afghanistan over the last twenty years. It is especially a slap in the face to the Gold Star families and their loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and whose sacrifice made America a safer place

over the last two decades. Now, because of your Administration's failures, two decades of progress on the global war on terror has been erased, our homeland is less safe than it was on September 10, 2001, and there are already more U.S. boots on the ground in Afghanistan than there were when you took office.

Given this national security failure, I call on you to request the resignation of your entire national security team and implement a transition at a time that does not put any more Americans or allies at risk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Barr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Andy Barr
Member of Congress