

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 17, 2021

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Meeks:

In inviting Secretaries Blinken and Austin to testify before the full Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Secretaries of State and Defense should appear before the Committee not at their convenience but instead immediately. The House is scheduled to return for business on Monday, August 23, and if sooner cannot be accommodated, then our Committee should insist on this date.

As an authorizing Committee, the Executive Branch has an obligation to provide us details regarding their actions in Afghanistan to date and the forthcoming plans in the critical days ahead. I agree with you, we must hear directly—and swiftly—about the “administration’s plan is to safely evacuate American citizens, SIVs, and other vulnerable Afghans from the country, and to understand our broader counter terrorism strategy in South Asia following the collapse of the Ghani government.” Further, we have a Constitutional and moral duty to fully understand the failures that have led to this humiliating and disgraceful exit from Afghanistan that have left hundreds of Americans and our allies in danger, arms in the hands of terrorists, and secret last-minute deals with the Taliban in exchange for precious additional days to flee.

We as elected members of Congress cannot make completely informed leadership decisions in the days and weeks to come if the necessary testimony from the Executive Branch is not received promptly. The world is watching and waiting for true leadership to reveal itself in the wake of this colossal mess. The Committee needs answers now, and I look forward to you scheduling this opportunity for them to be received.

Respectfully,



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress