

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1867

AN ACT

To require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID–19, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “COVID–19 Origin Act
3 of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) The Department of State released a fact
7 sheet on January 15, 2021, about the Wuhan Insti-
8 tute of Virology (WIV) which stated the following:

9 (A) “The U.S. government has reason to
10 believe that several researchers inside the WIV
11 became sick in autumn 2019, before the first
12 identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms
13 consistent with both COVID–19 and common
14 seasonal illnesses.”.

15 (B) “WIV researchers conducted experi-
16 ments involving RaTG13, the bat coronavirus
17 identified by the WIV in January 2020 as its
18 closest sample to SARS–CoV–2.”.

19 (C) “Despite the WIV presenting itself as
20 a civilian institution, the United States has de-
21 termined that the WIV has collaborated on pub-
22 lications and secret projects with China’s mili-
23 tary.”.

24 (2) Former Director of the Centers for Disease
25 Control and Prevention, Robert Redfield, stated in
26 March 2021 that, “the most likely etiology of this

1 pathogen in Wuhan was from a laboratory” and
2 noted that, “[i]t is not unusual for respiratory
3 pathogens that are being worked on in a laboratory
4 to infect the laboratory worker.”.

5 (3) Director-General of the World Health Orga-
6 nization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus acknowl-
7 edged in March 2021 that the Coronavirus Disease
8 2019 (COVID–19) may have originated in a labora-
9 tory and said this hypothesis “requires further inves-
10 tigation, potentially with additional missions involv-
11 ing specialist experts.”.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) identifying the origin of Coronavirus Dis-
15 ease 2019 (COVID–19) is critical for preventing a
16 similar pandemic from occurring in the future;

17 (2) there is reason to believe the COVID–19
18 pandemic may have originated at the Wuhan Insti-
19 tute of Virology; and

20 (3) the Director of National Intelligence should
21 declassify and make available to the public as much
22 information as possible about the origin of COVID–
23 19 so the United States and like-minded countries
24 can—

1 (A) identify the origin of COVID–19 as ex-
 2 peditiously as possible, and

3 (B) use that information to take all appro-
 4 priate measures to prevent a similar pandemic
 5 from occurring again.

6 **SEC. 4. DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION RELATED TO**
 7 **THE ORIGIN OF COVID-19.**

8 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
 9 ment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence
 10 shall—

11 (1) declassify any and all information relating
 12 to potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Vi-
 13 rology and the origin of the Coronavirus Disease
 14 2019 (COVID–19), including—

15 (A) activities performed by the Wuhan In-
 16 stitute of Virology with or on behalf of the Peo-
 17 ple’s Liberation Army;

18 (B) coronavirus research or other related
 19 activities performed at the Wuhan Institute of
 20 Virology prior to the outbreak of COVID–19;
 21 and

22 (C) researchers at the Wuhan Institute of
 23 Virology who fell ill in autumn 2019, including
 24 for any such researcher—

25 (i) the researcher’s name;

- 1 (ii) the researcher's symptoms;
- 2 (iii) the date of the onset of the re-
- 3 searcher's symptoms;
- 4 (iv) the researcher's role at the
- 5 Wuhan Institute of Virology;
- 6 (v) whether the researcher was in-
- 7 volved with or exposed to coronavirus re-
- 8 search at the Wuhan Institute of Virology;
- 9 (vi) whether the researcher visited a
- 10 hospital while they were ill; and
- 11 (vii) a description of any other actions
- 12 taken by the researcher that may suggest
- 13 they were experiencing a serious illness at
- 14 the time; and
- 15 (2) submit to Congress an unclassified report
- 16 that contains—
- 17 (A) all of the information described under
- 18 paragraph (1); and

1 (B) only such redactions as the Director
2 determines necessary to protect sources and
3 methods.

Passed the Senate May 26, 2021.

Attest:

Secretary.

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