

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3191

To require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BABIN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

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

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

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

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

21 (2) Former Director of the Centers for Disease
22 Control and Prevention, Robert Redfield, stated in
23 March 2021 that, “the most likely etiology of this
24 pathogen in Wuhan was from a laboratory” and
25 noted that, “[i]t is not unusual for respiratory

1 pathogens that are being worked on in a laboratory
2 to infect the laboratory worker.”.

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

10 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

11 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (i) the researcher's name;

24 (ii) the researcher's symptoms;

1 (iii) the date of the onset of the re-
2 searcher's symptoms;

3 (iv) the researcher's role at the
4 Wuhan Institute of Virology;

5 (v) whether the researcher was in-
6 volved with or exposed to coronavirus re-
7 search at the Wuhan Institute of Virology;

8 (vi) whether the researcher visited a
9 hospital while they were ill; and

10 (vii) a description of any other actions
11 taken by the researcher that may suggest
12 they were experiencing a serious illness at
13 the time; and

14 (2) submit to Congress an unclassified report
15 that contains—

16 (A) all of the information described under
17 paragraph (1); and

18 (B) only such redactions as the Director
19 determines necessary to protect sources and
20 methods without altering or obscuring in any
21 way the information described under paragraph
22 (1).

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