



## [U.S. Lawmakers Call for Congressional Hearings Regarding the Circumstances Surrounding the Deteriorating Situation in Afghanistan](#)

Congress has vowed to investigate the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan, as lawmakers from both political parties have come together to condemn the execution of the strategy. Multiple hearings are expected this summer and fall, with Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) – Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee – stating that lawmakers will investigate what he described as the “Biden administration’s flawed execution of the U.S. withdrawal.” Menendez pointed out that former President Trump’s actions during his time in office will also be part of the review process as well due to the previous administration’s negotiation shortcomings with the Taliban. President Biden has defended his position on the matter by arguing that there will never be an ideal time to carry out the troop pullout in Afghanistan, and that the only thing which would result from a continued American presence there is more violence and the loss of American lives. Still, the majority of analysts contend that the manner of the withdrawal strategy left much to be desired and should have been conducted in a more forward-thinking way to try and prevent the latest setbacks which have transpired.

Some Democrats in Congress have stated that they were under the impression that Afghan government and security forces were better prepared to defend themselves against the threat of the Taliban. They have also highlighted that the Trump administration was largely responsible for the withdrawal tactics in the first place. Republicans on the other hand have claimed that the outcome of the troop pullout is solely the Biden administration’s fault and could have been executed better by someone else. The Biden administration itself has called attention to former President Trump’s impact on the circumstances and also laid blame at the feet of Afghan officials and military personnel for not forming a more credible defense against the Taliban’s advances.

The Congressional investigation into the withdrawal is trying to uncover what went wrong with the process as it played out. The aim of the hearings will be to ensure that America learns from what went wrong so that the same mistake is not repeated in other settings. Members of Congress have been increasingly critical of the Biden administration for not keeping them updated and fully in the loop on the execution of their Afghanistan strategy. The reality of the situation, however, is that Congress has little authority over the withdrawal process as the administration gets first and last say in its foreign policy strategy and is reliant on its preparedness for the aftermath of the process – which many agree was lacking in this case.

The hearings are a formality and necessity, but some also hope that they can help uncover shortcomings in the withdrawal process. The situation has many important variables and is far more complex than to allow one to say that the Biden administration was solely at fault. Ultimately, the troop pullout was always likely to be challenging considering the United States’ direct involvement and presence in Afghanistan for nearly 20 years – a scenario which has transcended four different U.S. presidential administrations during that time.