

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

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

4 (3) the Director of National Intelligence should
5 declassify and make available to the public as much
6 information as possible about the origin of COVID–
7 19 so the United States and like-minded countries
8 can—

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

11 (B) use that information to take all appro-
12 priate measures to prevent a similar pandemic
13 from occurring again.

14 **SEC. 3. DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION RELATED TO**
15 **THE ORIGIN OF COVID–19.**

16 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence
18 shall—

19 (1) declassify any and all information relating
20 to potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Vi-
21 rology and the origin of the Coronavirus Disease
22 2019 (COVID–19), including—

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

1 (B) coronavirus research or other related
2 activities performed at the Wuhan Institute of
3 Virology prior to the outbreak of COVID–19;
4 and

5 (C) researchers at the Wuhan Institute of
6 Virology who fell ill in autumn 2019, including
7 for any such researcher—

8 (i) the researcher’s name;

9 (ii) the researcher’s symptoms;

10 (iii) the date of the onset of the re-
11 searcher’s symptoms;

12 (iv) the researcher’s role at the
13 Wuhan Institute of Virology;

14 (v) whether the researcher was in-
15 volved with or exposed to coronavirus re-
16 search at the Wuhan Institute of Virology;

17 (vi) whether the researcher visited a
18 hospital while they were ill; and

19 (vii) a description of any other actions
20 taken by the researcher that may suggest
21 they were experiencing a serious illness at
22 the time; and

23 (2) submit to Congress an unclassified report
24 that contains—

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

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