



## H.R. 6586 BILL ANALYSIS VOTE RECOMMENDATION: NO

Rep. Burchett has introduced H.R. 6586, a House bill which would “require a strategy to oppose financial or material support by foreign countries to the Taliban, and for other purposes.” The bill is mostly consisting of reporting requirements, requiring the Secretary of State to report on

- Foreign financial and material support for the Taliban
- Cash assistance programs
- The Afghan Fund

In the wake of the Taliban take-over of Afghanistan, the country has been suffering from a myriad of crises impacting the entire population of the country. At least half the population doesn't know where their next meal is coming from, [according to the World Food Programme](#). The Taliban's cruel rule and insisting on gender apartheid also adds to this misery for the people of Afghanistan.

Before the summer of 2021, Western and other donors pumped billions into the Afghan economy, keeping it afloat. That faucet of development aid turned off as humanitarian assistance lessened as the Western-backed Afghan republic fell and the Taliban took over. Simultaneously, sanctions – that were already imposed on the Taliban – and the freezing of Afghan Central bank assets changed the situation altogether essentially overnight. Both the asset freeze and sanctions continue to hurt millions of Afghans, many of whom cannot buy the food in their local markets because they cannot access the money that is theirs.

As of now, assistance does continue to pour into Afghanistan, through a very specific mechanism. The United States government helps allocate money that is given to U.N. agencies inside the country, as well as major humanitarian organizations that operate in the country. These agencies and organizations provide direct humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. As SIGAR has laid out, indirect support that is unavoidable such as employer tax-payments does happen but the overwhelming majority of programs such as USAID cash assistance are vital and critical. **H.R. 6586 is a misguided bill, as it focuses on indirect support for the Taliban. Congress should continue to find ways to support and increase support for the Afghan people.**

Furthermore, aspects of H.R. 6586 target and scrutinize the Afghan Fund and their board. This is inappropriate as the two Afghan board members are trusted pillars of both the Afghan and Afghan-American community. Furthermore, this is money that does not belong to the United States. Afghans For A Better Tomorrow (AFBT) supports the allocation and disbursement of a

small portion that was seized and is being held by the Afghan Fund to support the Afghan economy at a critical juncture, as we have laid out in our [federal amicus brief in federal court](#). It is both inappropriate for Congress to legislate assets that are owned by the Afghan people or one that threatens the Fund's independence.

It is our view that this bill would hurt the people of Afghanistan. **We strongly recommend a NO vote on H.R. 6586.**