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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 2021

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

General Mark A. Milley
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
United States Department of Defense
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318

Dear Secretary Austin and General Milley,

While I appreciate your willingness to testify before the House Armed Services Committee, I am requesting a follow-up classified briefing from you in the immediate future to respond to additional questions and get answers the American people are demanding.

Several of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle were unable to ask you questions regarding the situation in Afghanistan and our withdrawal operation. Per our Constitutional duties as the Legislative branch, it is our duty and responsibility to ask the questions and conduct oversight that our constituents demand.

In addition, during the hearing today several members of Congress asked questions that were not given answers due to the classified nature of their responses. In the hearing, you volunteered to answer those questions should they be asked in a classified session. The conclusion of the United States' involvement in Afghanistan demands a thorough examination in a classified setting where my colleagues and I can get answers.

I am requesting a response to this inquiry within 10 business days. Your staff can contact my office and we can arrange this classified briefing as soon as possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa C. McClain".

Lisa McClain
Member of Congress