

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To review and consider terminating the designation of the State of Qatar
as a major non-NATO ally, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BUDD (for himself, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced
the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To review and consider terminating the designation of the
State of Qatar as a major non-NATO ally, 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 “Reviewing Qatar’s
5 Major Non-NATO Ally Status Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) On October 8, 1997, the Secretary of State
9 designated Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya

1 (“ Hamas”) as a foreign terrorist organization in ac-
2 cordance with section 219 of the Immigration and
3 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

4 (2) In 2012, the State of Qatar allowed Hamas
5 to open a political office in Doha.

6 (3) On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists oper-
7 ating from Gaza attacked Israel, resulting in the
8 death of more than 1,200 individuals and the kid-
9 napping of more than 240 individuals, including the
10 death of more than 30 and kidnapping of more than
11 a dozen United States citizens.

12 (4) Ismail Haniyeh, the chief of Hamas’s polit-
13 ical bureau, resides in Qatar, as do Khalil al-Hayya,
14 head of Hamas’s communications office, and Khaled
15 Mashal, Hamas’s former political chief and current
16 head of the group’s diaspora office.

17 (5) On January 6, 2024, in a meeting with a
18 bipartisan, bicameral delegation of United States
19 lawmakers, Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Moham-
20 med bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani assured
21 the delegation that “since day 1, Qatar has been
22 strong arming Hamas to get the hostages back”.

23 (6) At the end of January 2024, Qatari Prime
24 Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin

1 Jassim Al-Thani asserted publicly that Qatar has no
2 leverage over Hamas in hostage negotiations.

3 (7) On February 17, 2024, Qatari Prime Min-
4 ister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin
5 Jassim Al-Thani urged a ceasefire in Gaza without
6 preconditions, undercutting negotiations for the re-
7 lease of hostages, including United States citizens,
8 at the Munich Security Conference.

9 (8) As of April 2024, Hamas continues to hold
10 5 United States citizens hostage in Gaza, as well as
11 the bodies of 3 United States citizens believed to be
12 killed on or shortly after October 7, 2023.

13 (9) The March 10, 2022, designation of the
14 State of Qatar as a major non-NATO ally is a privi-
15 lege which must be continuously earned.

16 (10) It is in the United States interest to re-
17 view the designation of certain countries as Major
18 Non-NATO Allies from time to time as facts and
19 circumstances change. In fact, the United States
20 Government terminated Afghanistan's status as a
21 major non-NATO ally in July 2022, following the
22 Taliban's takeover of that country.

1 **SEC. 3. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**
2 **FINED.**

3 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
4 mittees” means—

5 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
6 Senate; and

7 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
8 House of Representatives.

9 **SEC. 4. REVIEW OF DESIGNATION OF THE STATE OF QATAR**
10 **AS A MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY.**

11 (a) REVIEW AND REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In light of the fact that the
13 State of Qatar hosts Hamas, a United States-des-
14 ignated terrorist organization with American blood
15 and hostages on its hands, and the fact that Qatar
16 continues to host this terrorist organization despite
17 the continued captivity by Hamas of American hos-
18 tages, not later than 90 days after the date of the
19 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall—

20 (A) conduct a thorough review of—

21 (i) bilateral relations between the
22 United States and Qatar;

23 (ii) Qatar’s relationship with Hamas;
24 and

25 (iii) Qatar’s designation as a major
26 non-NATO ally; and

1 (B) submit to the appropriate congress-
2 sional committees a detailed written report
3 summarizing the review.

4 (2) FORM.—The report required under para-
5 graph (1) shall be submitted in an unclassified form
6 but may contain a classified annex.

7 (b) CERTIFICATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under
9 subsection (a) shall include a certification from the
10 Secretary of State as to whether—

11 (A) It is in the national interest of the
12 United States for Qatar to maintain its des-
13 ignation as a major non-NATO ally;

14 (B) Qatar has exerted any and all leverage
15 it has over Hamas to secure the release of
16 United States hostages from Gaza;

17 (C) Qatar does not directly or indirectly
18 support, financially or otherwise, acts of inter-
19 national terrorism or foreign terrorist organiza-
20 tions, including Hamas; and

21 (D) Qatar has expelled or agreed to extra-
22 dicate to the United States any individuals deter-
23 mined to be members of Hamas, including
24 Ismail Haniyeh, Khalil al-Hayya, Khaled
25 Mashal, and any other individuals bearing re-

1 sponsibility for the terror attack on October 7,
2 2023.

3 (2) FORM AND PUBLICATION.—The certifi-
4 cation required under paragraph (1) shall be in un-
5 classified form and posted on a publicly available
6 website of the Department of State.

7 (c) TERMINATION.—In the event that the Secretary
8 of State cannot in good faith certify the determinations
9 described under subsection (b)(1) in the affirmative, the
10 President—

11 (1) shall immediately terminate the designation
12 of the State of Qatar as a major non-NATO ally
13 pursuant to section 517(a)(1) of the Foreign Assist-
14 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321k(a)(1)) or any
15 other provision of law; and

16 (2) may not issue a separate designation of the
17 State of Qatar as a major non-NATO ally pursuant
18 to section 517(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act
19 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321k(a)(1)) or any other provi-
20 sion of law unless the President submits to Congress
21 a certification described in subsection (b).