

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate regarding the need to conduct a comprehensive investigation to determine the origins of COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1260

To establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) to the amendment (No. 1502) proposed by Mr. SCHUMER

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

2 **SEC. _____. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF THE SENATE RE-**

3 **GARDING AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE**

4 **THE ORIGINS OF COVID–19.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) COVID–19 has taken the lives of nearly

7 3,500,000 individuals around the world.

1 (2) Understanding the origins of the COVID–
2 19 pandemic is essential to addressing our
3 vulnerabilities and preventing future crises.

4 (3) In May 2020, the World Health Assembly
5 did not authorize a comprehensive investigation into
6 the origins of COVID–19, and instead passed a sig-
7 nificantly limited compromise resolution, with Chi-
8 nese government support, which did not explicitly in-
9 clude in its scope the possibility of a research-related
10 accident.

11 (4) The 2020 World Health Assembly resolu-
12 tion and its terms of reference, which were nego-
13 tiated privately between the World Health Organiza-
14 tion (in this section referred to as “WHO”) and Chi-
15 nese authorities, handed the Chinese government
16 control over the joint-study process by giving the
17 Chinese government veto power over which inter-
18 national experts were allowed to participate in the
19 joint study and by agreeing that most primary re-
20 search would be carried out by Chinese teams with-
21 out ensuring broad access to primary data by inter-
22 national experts.

23 (5) As a result of these terms, the significant
24 structural, procedural, and analytical shortcomings
25 of the joint study, and the severe restrictions im-

1 posed by Chinese authorities, the WHO-convened
2 joint study into the origins of COVID-19 was pre-
3 vented from providing a balanced consideration of
4 the multiple theories of the origin of COVID-19.

5 (6) Only 4 of the 313 pages of the joint-study
6 team report and its annexes addressed the possibility
7 of a laboratory accident, and no thorough examina-
8 tion of the lab incident hypothesis was carried out
9 by the joint-study team.

10 (7) Some of the international experts on the
11 joint-study team stated that they lacked the means
12 and resources to properly investigate the research-
13 related accident hypothesis, and they were neither
14 able nor meant to do such a full investigation but
15 instead were acting as a “study review group”.

16 (8) WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros
17 Adhanom Ghebreyesus commented on March 30,
18 2021, the day the joint-study report was released, “I
19 do not believe that [the joint-study team’s] assess-
20 ment [of a possible lab incident] was extensive
21 enough. Further data and studies will be needed to
22 reach more robust conclusions . . . potentially with
23 additional missions involving specialist experts,
24 which I am ready to deploy.”.

1 (9) The WHO Director-General further com-
2 mented, “As far as WHO is concerned all
3 hypotheses remain on the table . . . We have not
4 yet found the source of the virus, and we must con-
5 tinue to follow the science and leave no stone
6 unturned as we do . . . It is clear that we need
7 more research across a range of areas, which will en-
8 tail further field visits.”.

9 (10) The March 30, 2021 Joint Statement on
10 the WHO-convened COVID–19 Origins Study by the
11 United States and 13 other countries recognized the
12 severe shortcomings of the joint-study process and
13 called for “a transparent and independent analysis
14 and evaluation, free from interference and undue in-
15 fluence.”.

16 (11) In spite of the devastation the COVID–19
17 pandemic has caused in the United States and
18 around the world, no process currently exists to en-
19 sure a comprehensive investigation into the source of
20 COVID–19.

21 (12) Such an investigation is essential for en-
22 suring this type of crisis never happens again for the
23 benefit of all people, all nations, and future genera-
24 tions.

1 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the
2 Senate that—

3 (1) a comprehensive investigation to determine
4 the origins of COVID–19 must be conducted by
5 WHO immediately, with access to all relevant
6 records, samples, and personnel in China, and that
7 such investigation must fully explore all possible
8 sources of the COVID–19 pandemic, including exclu-
9 sively “natural” zoonosis in the wild, human con-
10 tamination in an animal farm, and a research-re-
11 lated accident;

12 (2) the United States delegation to the World
13 Health Assembly should, in concert with allies and
14 partners around the world, work to ensure that an
15 international scientific investigation into the origins
16 of COVID–19, with full access to all relevant
17 records, samples, and personnel in China, will be au-
18 thorized by the World Health Assembly and imple-
19 mented with extreme urgency; and

20 (3) should such a full investigation not be au-
21 thorized by the 2021 World Health Assembly, then
22 the United States Government should immediately
23 begin planning a comprehensive and data-driven in-
24 vestigation into the COVID–19 pandemic origins, in

1 concert with willing partner governments and ex-
2 perts around the world.