

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Rex Tillerson  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

December 14, 2017

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

We write today to request that the U.S.-Qatar counterterrorism Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be declassified and made available to the public.

Though this MOU was signed in July 2017, Congress was unable to review the agreement until November 2017, without an explanation for the delay. While our national security must never be compromised, public policy should be discussed and reviewed in public.


The American people have a right to know what steps Qatar's government is taking to deter Islamic terrorism. Senior Administration officials have stated in both public settings that the MOU is evidence that progress is being made in the joint effort to fight terrorism and discourage terror financing. While we sincerely support the joint initiative, by not having direct, consistent access to the MOU because of classification, the legislative branch is unable to effectively and objectively measure this reported progress.

The U.S.-Qatar MOU does not appear to contain classified or sensitive information. The decision to classify the document while publicly praising Qatar's progress toward upholding its contents makes it impossible for the public to judge Qatar's compliance. While we would not object to classified annexes to an MOU if such annexes contained highly detailed, sensitive information regarding specific steps Qatar must take to curb all support for terrorism, including Hamas, we believe that at a minimum the framework of the agreement could be made public.

We urge you to reevaluate the classification, structure, and content of the U.S.-Qatar MOU to allow for elected representatives and the public to have proper oversight of the progress of the agreement.

Sincerely,

  
JIM BANKS  
Member of Congress

  
RON DESANTIS  
Member of Congress

  
SCOTT PERRY  
Member of Congress

  
ROBERT PITTENGER  
Member of Congress