



The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515-3208

## **Re: Urgency Remains for Afghan Adjustment Act**

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The bipartisan, newly reintroduced Afghan Adjustment Act ([S.2327/H.R.4627](#)) honors our nation's commitment to its wartime allies by providing a path to permanent status for Afghan evacuees. It also ensures that these evacuees are properly and scrupulously vetted prior to considering them for such status.

For the reasons outlined below, the undersigned national security leaders urge you to work together to pass the legislation swiftly.

Following the fall of Kabul to the Taliban in August 2021, the United States facilitated the evacuation of approximately 80,000 at-risk Afghans. All evacuees faced an uncertain and dangerous future under Taliban rule, and many were in imminent danger owing to their direct connection to U.S. military and diplomatic efforts over the past twenty years. Almost one-half of the evacuees were children.

The heavily backlogged Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and refugee admissions programs, coupled with the more rapid than anticipated fall of Kabul, forced an expedited and chaotic evacuation of at-risk Afghans. As a result, most evacuees were brought to the United States under humanitarian parole, a swifter and more flexible process, but one that confers only temporary protections and work authorization without a clear path to permanent status.

The bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act, led by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), addresses outstanding security and vetting concerns while providing a path for qualified and appropriately screened Afghans to pursue permanent status in the United States.

The rationale for the Afghan Adjustment Act is clear. First, it follows through on our nation's commitment to its wartime allies by providing at-risk Afghans and their families — including many who supported the U.S. military and America's diplomatic efforts for the past twenty years — a path to permanent status in the United States. Second, it sends a clear message to current and future allies — those who are necessary for U.S. servicemembers and diplomats to perform their missions in pursuit of national security — that the United States is a reliable and trusted partner that stands by the democratic ideals it professes.

With the initial two-year parole period for many evacuated Afghans set to expire, Congress has yet to create a permanent solution for this group, leaving tens of thousands of evacuees in legal limbo.

No action is not an option. We urge you to act to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.

Thank you,

Barbara Comstock, Former Member of U.S. Congress

Dan Brown, Former U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Dave West, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Doug Baker, Former White House Homeland Security Council

Elaine Dezenski, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

France Hoang, Former White House Assistant General Counsel

Gary Shiffman, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Navy

Gus Coldebella, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Hans Miller, Former U.S. Transportation Security Administration

Jim Williams, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Joe Whitley, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

John Mitnick, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Julie Myers Wood, Former U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Lynden Melmed, Former U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Marc Frey, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Margaret Stock, Former U.S. Army

Michael Neifach, Former U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Michael Petrucelli, Former U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Ozzie Nelson, Former National Security Council and U.S. Navy

Parney Albright, Former Department of Homeland Security

Patrick Shen, Former U.S. Department of Justice and Senator Cornyn

Paul Rosenzweig, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Robert Mocny, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Ross Ashley, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security and National Guard

Scott Boylan, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Stewart Verdery, Former U.S. Department of Homeland Security

cc: Senate Appropriations Chair Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Ranking Member  
Susan Collins, House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro, and House Appropriations Ranking  
Member Kay Granger