

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 7, 2021

The Honorable President Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We urge you to continue the safe relocation of Afghan evacuees, refugees, parolees, and SIV applicants to the United States in the wake of the U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Afghan translators, drivers, contractors, interpreters and others who aided the U.S. military provided a great service to the American people, and it is imperative that we help them find a safe place to relocate in the United States. Additionally, the lives of many Afghans whose work furthered the U.S.-mission – including women’s rights leaders, pro-democracy activists, parliamentarians, journalists, and many who worked for U.S.-based NGOs and media organizations – are in danger and need a pathway to safety in the U.S.

The United States has long recognized the need to provide protections for refugees and those seeking humanitarian parole. In 2009, Congress passed the *Afghan Allies Protection Act*, which included the issuance of Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) to those who worked for the U.S. government and the International Security Assistance Force. Unfortunately, tens of thousands of Afghans now face persecution and death threats from the Taliban because of their service for our country. It is our duty as Americans to ensure that Afghan partners who risked so much for our nation have a safe place to relocate, and we urge you to take immediate steps to expedite the SIV and refugee program processing so that more Afghans are not left behind.

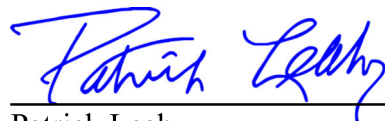
In addition, we urge you to ensure that all evacuated Afghans, including those evacuated by private sector volunteers, are paroled into the United States and not left to languish in third countries in legal limbo. Specifically, we ask that you create a designated humanitarian parole category for certain Afghan women and children, activists, human rights defenders, parliamentarians, journalists, and others who are in danger. Many designated parole programs have been established in our history such as the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program in 2007 and the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program in 2016.

We look forward to working with you and with state and local governments to ensure that vulnerable Afghans and their families have the resources and support necessary to relocate and resettle in the United States.

Sincerely,



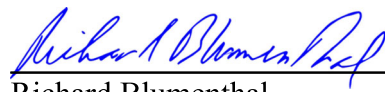
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator




Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



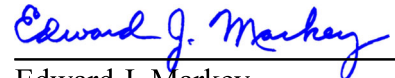
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



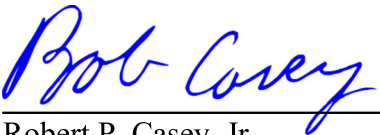
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator




Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator




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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



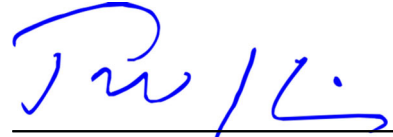
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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



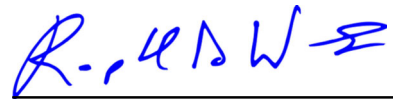
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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator