

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 18, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chair
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Cole and Diaz-Balart and Ranking Members DeLauro and Lee:

We write to urge you to maintain critical provisions for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program¹ in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations package. Authorizing new Afghan SIVs is critical to vetting and relocating qualified Afghan principal applicants currently in the processing pipeline.

The Afghan SIV program was first enacted through the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to provide a life-saving path to safety for Afghan nationals who face serious danger as a result of their work alongside U.S. troops, diplomats, and contractors. Since that time, the program has been extended and reformed numerous times, each time with significant bipartisan and bicameral support.

In FY 2019, FY 2020, FY 2021, FY 2023, and FY 2024, Congress recognized the importance of the SIV program and demonstrated a shared commitment to honoring our allies by authorizing additional visas through appropriations packages. Congress must continue this work so that the State Department is able to issue visas to eligible Afghans who face imminent threats from the Taliban, Islamic State, and other hostile groups because of their service to the U.S. and our allies.

We therefore request that you maintain the following language in the FY 2025 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill (S. 4797, Section 7034(d)(6)):

AFGHAN ALLIES.—Section 602(b)(3)(F) of 13 the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 14 1101 note) is amended—

¹ Section 602(b)(3)(F) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 ([8 U.S.C. 1101](#) note), otherwise known as Special Immigration Visas for Afghans – Who Were Employed by/on Behalf of the U.S. Government.

- (A) in the heading, by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”;
- (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), in the first sentence, by striking “50,500” and inserting “70,500”; and
- (C) in clauses (ii), by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2027”.

Our Afghan allies must not be left without this crucial pathway to safety from the violent dangers they face because of their service to the U.S. mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



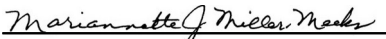
Zach Nunn
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
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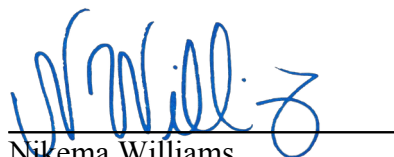
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



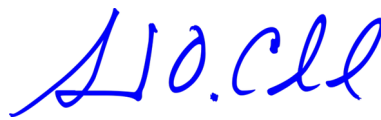
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



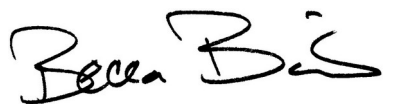
John Garamendi
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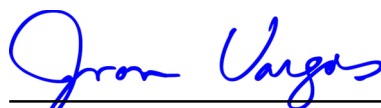
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Delia C. Ramirez
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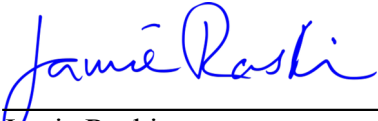
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Jake Auchincloss
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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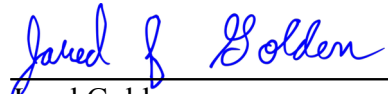
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Jimmy Panetta
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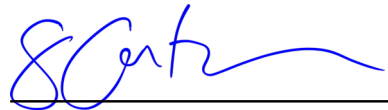
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



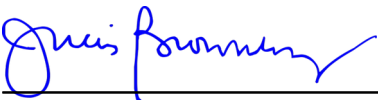
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Sean Casten
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Julia Brownley
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Andre Carson
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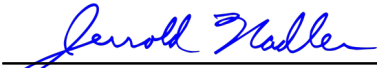
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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Jerrold Nadler
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Andrea Salinas
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Dan Goldman
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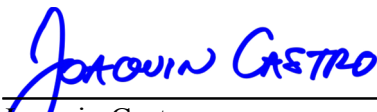
Thomas R. Suozzi
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Katie Porter
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Ted W. Lieu
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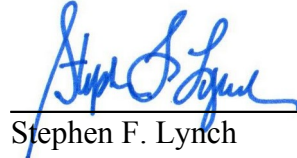
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



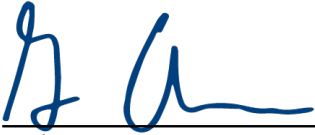
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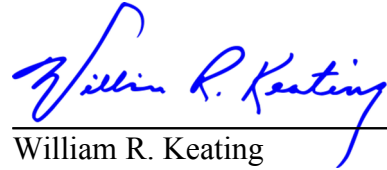
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker, House of Representatives
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, House of Representatives