

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

President Joe Biden
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

August 13, 2021

Dear Mr. President,

We write to ask that you act immediately to facilitate the evacuation from Kabul of Afghans whose active support for our efforts in their country and for the advancement of democracy and human rights there make them likely targets of Taliban retribution. With the collapse of Kabul an imminent possibility, we should view this as a Dunkirk moment. The safety of U.S. diplomats and military personnel must be our first priority. But we must also evacuate Afghans eligible for Special Immigrant Visas, and all public and private resources must now be mobilized to save not just those eligible for SIVs but as many other vulnerable Afghans as possible.

On August 2nd, Secretary of State Blinken announced the creation of a Priority-2, or P-2, designation, granting access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for Afghans who helped the United States but do not qualify for the SIV visas, as well as others in particularly vulnerable categories. At this moment, Afghans who worked for U.S.-based non-governmental organizations, those associated with U.S. institutions such as the American University, as well as journalists, civil servants, and prominent activists, may qualify for P-2 status, and are in grave danger. But these Afghans can only apply for P-2 outside of Afghanistan. And it is our understanding that no third country is currently allowing Afghans to enter by air without visas, and vulnerable Afghans are no longer able to reach neighboring countries from Kabul by road. The same is true for family members of US citizens and lawful permanent residents, and others in the final stages of visa processing.

Given the urgency of the situation, a diplomatic effort is needed to persuade Afghanistan's neighbors to open their borders now. It is equally urgent to find a destination to which Afghans eligible for P2 status and SIVs can be evacuated now, whether a third country, a U.S. overseas military installation, or by parole to an overseas territory like Guam, where they can be processed and vetted, and to mobilize all possible means — U.S., allied, and private sector — of transporting them to safety.

We are aware of the complexities of the U.S. refugee admission program. But if we don't do this now, it may soon be too late to do anything.

Now is the time to act consistent with the language and intent of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, which covered a broad range of Afghans employed "by, or on behalf of, the United States Government." Now is the time to fulfill our broader moral obligation to Afghans who bet their lives on the future America promised.

Sincerely,



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



Chair Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Chair Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

/s/

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



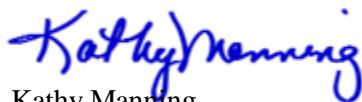
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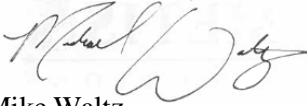
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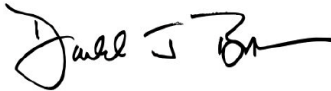
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