

December 14th, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
1236 Longworth Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McConnell,

We are a group of retired Ambassadors, all of whom served as Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan, who have dedicated our professional lives to furthering America's interests in the world. We are writing today because we are convinced that the Afghan Adjustment Act furthers those interests. The need is urgent and time is short. We encourage you to act now and include the Afghan Adjustment Act (S.4787, H.R.8685) and related provisions in the upcoming FY2023 Omnibus.

The Afghan Adjustment Act:

- Prioritizes national security with the strictest security vetting in our immigration system for Afghans.
- Increases oversight and transparency with an Interagency Task Force and associated required reports.
- Removes red tape, helps our national security, and streamlines processes to alleviate problems and burdens in our processing systems.
- Provides a vetted path for close Afghan allies, such as Afghan Commandos, who were wrongly omitted from the current SIV program despite their close alliance and sacrifice for our cause.
- Prevents the asylum system from being overwhelmed with thousands of new requests as parole begins to expire for those Afghans who were brought here during the August 2021 evacuation.

Most of all, it keeps our deep and binding commitments we made to our wartime allies. This is a moral imperative but also ensures we will find future allies in conflicts to come.

If Congress fails to act, it will strain already-overwhelmed asylum and immigration court systems. Without an AAA, tens of thousands of recently arrived Afghans will have to find an

existing immigration pathway to remain lawful once their parole expires. That will mean tens of thousands of new asylum claims, when the current affirmative asylum backlog is more than 400,000 cases with a broader immigration backlog of 1.4 million cases.

Finally, without the Afghan Adjustment Act, the task of American diplomacy will be much more difficult. If the United States does not act to support its allies by passing the Afghan Adjustment Act, in the future our allies will be less likely to support the U.S. missions if they see that our Afghan partners are abandoned. In diplomacy, our words will have lost meaning, and in the unfortunate event of future conflict, what incentive would local allies have to support our troops? This legislation will go far to honor the promises we have made to the people of Afghanistan over the last 20 years.

We urge you to act to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act without delay.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ambassador Ryan Crocker

Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann

Ambassador William Wood

Ambassador Earl Anthony Wayne

Ambassador James Cunningham

Ambassador P. Michael McKinley

Ambassador Hugo Llorens

Ambassador Ross Wilson