

December 17th, 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 Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We write to you as a group of retired flag officers who have dedicated our lives to the defense of our great nation, many of whom have served in leadership roles in Afghanistan with either the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) or U.S. Forces - Afghanistan (USFOR-A). There, each of us was honored to see up close the dedication of our military and civilian personnel standing shohna-ba-shohna, or shoulder-to-shoulder, with our Afghan allies to fight for a better future for both the United States and Afghanistan. It is for them, American veterans and Afghan allies, and in the interest of U.S. national security, that we write to you today.

We are convinced that the Afghan Adjustment Act furthers the national security interests of the United States. It is also a moral imperative. Congress must act now and include the Afghan Adjustment Act (S.4787, H.R.8685) and related provisions in the FY2023 Omnibus.

With the Afghan Adjustment Act, we would:

- Implement the strictest security vetting in our immigration system for Afghans, keeping our country secure.
- Create a path under that vetting for close Afghan allies, such as Afghan Special Forces, Afghan Air Force, intelligence officials, and female members of Afghan security forces. These were among our closest allies. They sacrificed greatly for our common cause, yet are unable to access protection. They are also under the most danger from the Taliban regime which actively hunts them.
- Keep our country's binding commitments, too often sealed in blood, that were made to men and women who joined us, shohna-ba-shohna.
- Honor our military veterans and civilians who sacrificed greatly in Afghanistan. Many veterans and frontline civilians, as private citizens, have borne the burden of working to save our allies who were left behind or left with an uncertain future. They feel the

urgency. They suffer vicarious trauma and moral injury in their continuing efforts. We should all join them in the fight to honor our promises.

If Congress fails to enact the AAA, the United States will be less secure. As military professionals, it was and remains our duty to prepare for future conflicts. We assure you that in any such conflict, potential allies will remember what happens now with our Afghan allies. If we claim to support the troops and want to enable their success in wartime, we must keep our commitments today. The AAA will go a long way.

Additionally, without the fixes applied by the AAA, our immigration system will be less capable, not more capable, of properly processing and vetting applicants. The enhancements that the Afghan Adjustment Act adds to the security screening process of those who were evacuated are of critical importance to our national security.

We urge you to act to include the Afghan Adjustment Act in the FY23 Omnibus and pass it without delay.

Sincerely,

/s/

General Joseph F. Dunford, U.S Marine Corps (Ret)

Admiral Mike Mullen, U.S. Navy (Ret)

General Richard Myers, U.S. Air Force (Ret)

Admiral Jim Stavridis, U.S. Navy (Ret)

General Peter W. Chiarelli, U.S. Army (Ret)

General Stan McChrystal, US Army (Ret)

General David McKiernan, U.S. Army (Ret)

Admiral William H. McRaven, U.S. Navy (Ret)

General Austin S. Miller, U.S. Army (Ret)

General John W. Nicholson Jr., U.S. Army (Ret)

General M. David Rodriguez, U.S. Army, (Ret)

General Raymond A. Thomas III, U.S. Army (Ret)

Lieutenant General John A. Bradley, U.S. Air Force (Ret)

Lieutenant General Jeff Buchanan, U.S. Army (Ret)

Lieutenant General Stephen Fogarty, U.S. Army (Ret)

Lieutenant General Benjamin C. Freakley, U.S. Army (Ret)

Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, U.S. Army (Ret)

Lieutenant General John C. Thomson, U.S. Army (Ret)

Lieutenant General John F. Mulholland Jr., U.S. Army

(Ret)

Lieutenant General Mark C. Schwartz, U.S. Army (Ret)

Lieutenant General Francis Wiercinski, U.S. Army (Ret)
Major General Edward Dorman III, U.S. Army (Ret)
Major General Walter D. Givhan, U.S. Air Force (Ret)
Major General William Hix, U.S. Army (Ret)
Major General Mark R. Quantock, U.S. Army (Ret)
Major General Edward Reeder, U.S. Army (Ret)
Major General Patrick J. Reinart, U.S. Army (Ret)
Major General Jefforey Smith, U.S. Army (Ret)
Major General James “Boe” Young, U.S. Army (Ret)
Brigadier General Gary M Jones, U.S. Army (Ret)