



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

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July 11, 2024

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

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Senate Judiciary Committee Chair
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Graham,

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of The American Legion, I write to you in strong support of the Afghan Adjustment Act. This vital legislation provides a streamlined pathway to legal status for the Afghans who fought shoulder-to-shoulder with American troops and are now imperiled by Taliban rule.

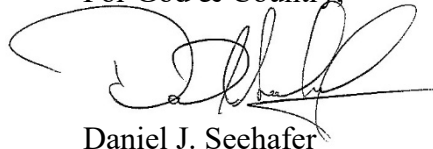
After two decades of courageous service and dedication to the United States' mission, our Afghan allies are at risk of persecution, oppression, and abuse by the Taliban. After American forces withdrew in 2021, 150,000 allies were deserted. These men and women face life-threatening tyranny under the new regime each day. Although we were able to evacuate 80,000 Afghans, they have extremely limited status in the United States and face constant uncertainty about their futures here.

As a nation that values loyalty and honor, the United States has a moral obligation to protect those who fought by our side. We made a promise to stand by the Afghan men and women who risked their lives for our mission; it is up to Congress to uphold this commitment.

The Afghan Adjustment Amendment to the NDAA will allow eligible Afghans who hold temporary humanitarian status in the United States to apply for lawful residency. It also would authorize special immigrant visas (SIVs) for Afghans who are recommended by the Department of Defense (DOD) for their crucial support of U.S. operations against the Taliban. The legislation keeps national security at the forefront, requiring each applicant to undergo a rigorous vetting process.

By honoring our commitments to these individuals, we reinforce the credibility of our promises to local partners in future conflicts. This credibility is crucial for garnering local support in international operations, which can be pivotal for mission success. Conversely, failing to uphold our commitments can deter potential allies in future engagements, undermining our strategic objectives. We urge you to support the Afghan Adjustment Amendment to safeguard the sanctity of American values and fulfill the promise we made to our allies.

For God & Country,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Seehafer', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Daniel J. Seehafer
National Commander

cc: The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
United States Senate
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Josh Hawley
United States Senate
115 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510