

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden:

As the evacuation of U.S. citizens and Afghan nationals who assisted our efforts in Afghanistan proceeds, we hope that you will consider taking immediate action to improve and stabilize the situation in Afghanistan. For nearly twenty years, multiple generations of Americans have served in Afghanistan, as members of our Armed Forces, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), multilateral organizations, and in countless other ways. In each instance, their work was supported by dedicated Afghan nationals who put their lives at risk to assist our efforts. There has never been a more important time for us to stand with our Afghan allies than now. As such, we urge you to take the following actions immediately:

1. Improve access to Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA), including by considering the creation of a broader access perimeter manned by U.S. military personnel outside the airport compound. We understand that to achieve this outcome, negotiations with the Taliban will be necessary, and we wholeheartedly encourage you to engage in such conversations immediately.
2. Extend the current military operation at HKIA beyond August 31 and begin discussions within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) regarding handing over the airport to a NATO force that will continue to evacuate Afghans who no longer wish to reside in Afghanistan, particularly those who assisted our efforts there.
3. Take any and all steps to streamline Special Immigrant Visa and P-2 Visa processes for Afghan nationals. The process as it exists is overly cumbersome and complicated to the point of being prohibitive for many.

We appreciate your consideration of these immediate actions and know that, with your leadership, we can successfully evacuate not just the American citizens on the ground in Afghanistan, but also the countless Afghan nationals who have assisted so many Americans over the course of our time there.

Sincerely,



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Marie Newman
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
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Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



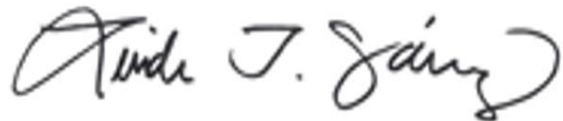
Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

/s/

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress