

24 July 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader of the House

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Leader of the House

Dear Speaker McCarthy and Leaders Schumer, Jeffries, McConnell, and Scalise:

We, the undersigned veteran and military serving organizations, express our grave concern over S.2327 and H.R.4627, the *Afghan Adjustment Act*, in its current form and text. While we all believe the United States must make good on the promise it made to those Afghans who were employed by and on behalf of the U.S. government, in roles such as interpreters for our armed forces, and believe the current Special Immigrant Visa program is poorly constructed, executed even worse, and in desperate need of reform.

However, the *Afghan Adjustment Act* goes far beyond simple reform of the Special Immigrant Visa program for Afghans that worked with the U.S. Government, instead providing blanket permanent residency status for all Afghans in the United States, whether they even supported U.S. Government operations in Afghanistan or not. And, that very permanent residency adjudication process is to be governed by a security vetting process which the [Inspector General of the Department of Defense](#) and found the vetting processes used by the U.S. Government would “mistakenly grant SIV or parolee status to ineligible Afghan evacuees” and that after such an erroneous admission was discovered, those Afghans later discovered to be security risks could not be found because the U.S. government did not know where they were because “either field representatives or operators failing to upload data or maintain devices properly.”

Likewise, the [Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security](#) found the Department’s vetting data was “inaccurate, incomplete, or missing” and because of that, DHS admitted to the US “evacuees who were not fully vetted... As a result, DHS may have admitted or paroled individuals into the United States who pose a risk to national security and the safety of local communities.” The report also states that the use of humanitarian parole is only supposed to be used on a case-by-case individual evaluation basis, and not on a wholesale basis like it was with last year’s evacuation. And the DHS Inspector General found the White House touting a “multilayered process to screen, inspect and vet evacuees using biometric and biographical data against multiple databases” was found inadequate by their audit because that “critical data” was not available, and that Customs and Board Protection admitted or paroled evacuees "who were not fully vetted" into the U.S. In fact, the Inspector General report “cited internal DHS reports that CBP "admitted or paroled dozens of evacuees with derogatory information".

As organizations who represent and support the men and women who served in our armed forces since 9/11, many of them in Afghanistan, we would not be honoring their service if we did not raise these serious concerns about the wholesale immigration process the *Afghan Adjustment Act* implements, a process which is already admitting to the United States those Afghans who operated against the U.S. Government, its armed forces, and the former government of the Republic of Afghanistan. We oppose this legislation in its current form and recommend the Committee amend it to only address the serious deficiencies in the current Special Immigrant Visa program and the unjust delays it imposes on those true Afghan allies who were employed by the U.S. government.

We stand by ready to collaborate with you on those necessary amendments to provide deserving Afghan allies the support they rate. Specifically, we believe S. 2324, the Ensuring American Security and Protecting Afghan Allies Act, is far better in that it focuses on those Afghans to whom promises of immigration to and residency in the United States were made. But to provide blanket permanent residency to any Afghan simply lucky enough to get on a plane to the United States, regardless of their prior relationship to the U.S. government, makes cheap the sacrifices of Americans and the United States in our battles in Afghanistan.

Very Respectfully,

National Defense Committee
American GI Forum
Wounded Paw Project
TREA: The Enlisted Association
Non Commissioned Officers Association
Burn Pits 360
Veteran Warriors
HunterSeven Foundation
Japanese American Veterans Association
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association & Enlisted Association
Heroes to Heroes Foundation
Vets 4 Vet Leadership
Military Order of the World Wars
Vets4Vets, Inc.