

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chair  
Subcommittee on National Security,  
Department of State, and Related Programs  
HT-2, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lois Frankel  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security,  
Department of State and Related Programs  
HT-2, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Frankel:

As you craft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide an additional 20,000 visas for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. Afghan SIV holders served U.S.-led democratization and military efforts during our nation's years in Afghanistan, providing significant faithful service to our security and strength. Ensuring there are sufficient visas for the Afghan SIV program is critical to keeping the program operational in order to secure these wartime allies.

The Afghan SIV program was first enacted through the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to provide a life-saving path to safety for Afghan nationals who face deadly retribution as a result of their work alongside U.S. troops, diplomats, and contractors. Since that time, the program has been improved multiple times, each time with significant bipartisan and bicameral support.

To qualify for an SIV, Afghan allies must complete rigorous vetting processes including multiple rounds of background checks, biometric screening, interviews, and security vetting conducted by the Department of Homeland Security and across intelligence agencies, often taking years to complete. These allies have passed the gold standard of vetting conducted by the United States. In Fiscal Years 2019-2024, Congress recognized the importance of the SIV program and demonstrated our shared commitment to honoring our allies by including additional visas through the appropriations process. Congress must build on this support so that the executive branch is able to issue visas to Afghans who face imminent threats from the Taliban, al Qaeda, and other hostile groups because of their service to the United States.

The U.S. Government committed to honoring our promises and made great strides in recent years to strengthen and expedite processing and resettlement. Similarly, the American people have never faltered in their support for our closest Afghan allies – from evacuating our partners in 2021, to welcoming Afghan allies as neighbors across the country, to bringing eligible SIV holders to safety in 2025. Through private flights and reception for our Afghan allies, veterans organizations, faith leaders, and everyday Americans continue to mobilize to bring our closest allies to safety. They need our sustained partnership to finish the mission.

That is why we respectfully urge you to continue your support for our Afghan allies and include an additional 20,000 Afghan Special Immigrant Visas in the FY 2026 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



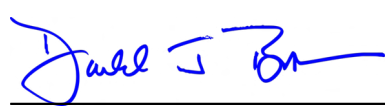
Mikie Sherrill  
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Lloyd Smucker  
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
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Gerald E. Connolly  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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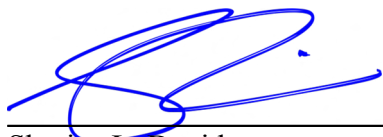
Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



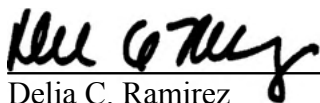
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



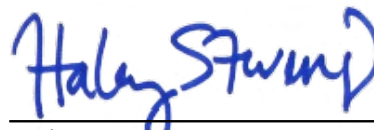
Sharice L. Davids  
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André Carson  
Member of Congress



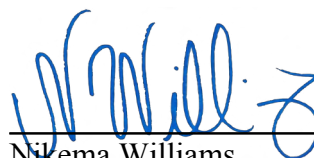
Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens  
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Rashida Tlaib  
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Nikema Williams  
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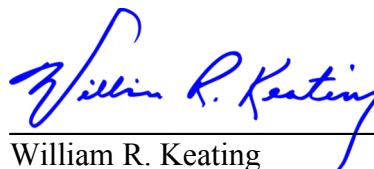
Greg Casar  
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Greg Landsman  
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William R. Keating  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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James P. McGovern  
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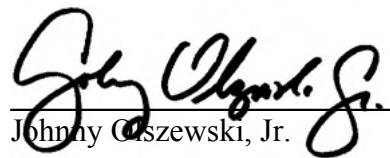
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
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Juan Vargas  
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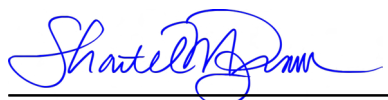
Johnny Giszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



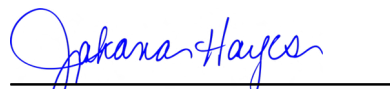
Lizzie Fletcher  
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Josh Gottheimer  
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Bill Foster  
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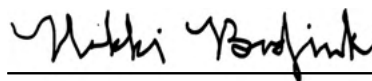
Lori Trahan  
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Richard E. Neal  
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Jimmy Panetta  
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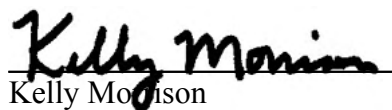
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



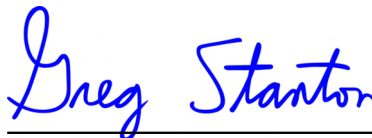
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



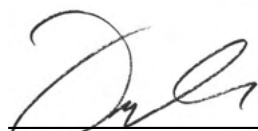
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



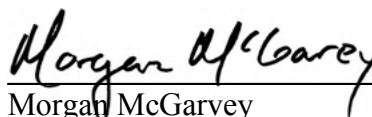
Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



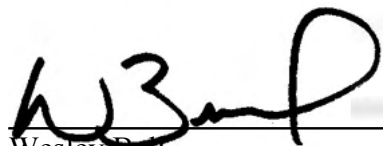
Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
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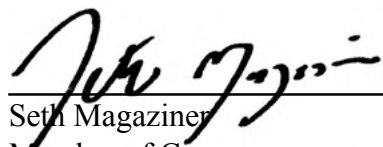
Morgan McGarvey  
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Wesley Bell  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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Seth Magaziner  
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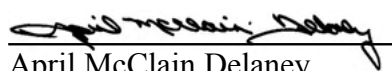
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
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Ro Khanna  
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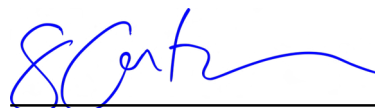
April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



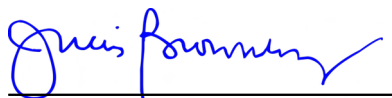
Chris Deluzio  
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Gabe Amo  
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Sean Casten  
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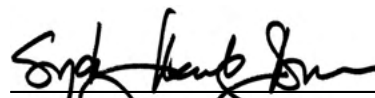
Julia Brownley  
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Dwight Evans  
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Diana DeGette  
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
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Jasmine Crockett  
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Jamie Raskin  
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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



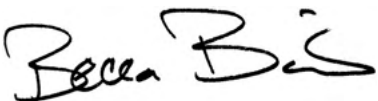
Jonathan L. Jackson  
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Dan Goldman  
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Jared Golden  
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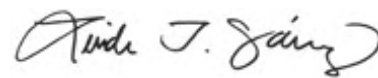
Becca Balint  
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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



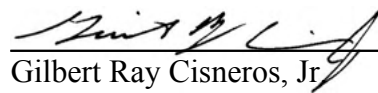
Mary Gay Scanlon  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



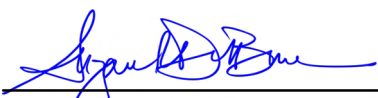
Sarah McBride  
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Chellie Pingree  
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Andrea Salinas  
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Suzan K. DelBene  
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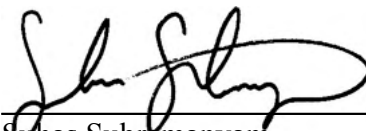


Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

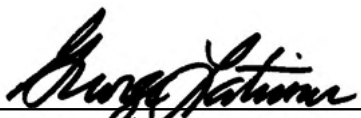




Thomas R. Suozzi  
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Suhas Subramanyam  
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George Latimer  
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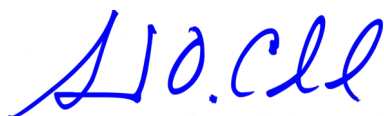
Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



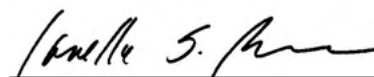
Maxine Dexter  
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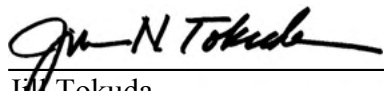
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Salud Carbajal  
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Janelle S. Bynum  
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Jim Tokuda  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
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Darren Soto  
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