

Afghan Adjustment Act (H.R.4627/ S.2327)

The Problem: Over two years after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, tens of thousands of Afghan evacuees have applied for U.S. asylum to flee conflict and injustices, but only a small fraction have been granted asylum. In addition, those already lawfully living in the U.S. through humanitarian parole could lose their ability to work, health care eligibility or the ability to be reunited with their families. They could even lose their right to live in the country altogether.

The U.S. has a moral obligation to offer refuge and provide support while many Afghans face direct threats to their safety. This responsibility is particularly crucial for the thousands of individuals who worked hand-in-hand with the U.S. implementing programs and advancing democratic values by serving as interpreters, translators, intelligence sources and in other various government support roles while U.S. troops were stationed in Afghanistan.

The Solution: To help fulfill America's promise to protect our allies, a clear pathway to safety for Afghan refugees is the passage of the Afghan Adjustment Act (<u>H.R.4627/S.2327</u>) which will provide Afghans with access to a more streamlined and efficient lawful permanent residency process. Specifically, the Afghan Adjustment Act would:

- Allow Afghans who sought refuge in the U.S. due to the 2021 withdrawal of U.S. troops to apply
 for permanent legal residency after undergoing additional vetting processes by the U.S.
 government;
- Improve and expand the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) process by including measures such as broadening SIV eligibility to include groups that worked alongside U.S. forces like the Afghan National Army Special Operations Command and the Female Tactical Teams of Afghanistan;
- Establish a task force to develop and implement a strategy for supporting Afghans outside the U.S. who are eligible for SIV status and require the Department of State to respond to congressional inquiries about SIV applications.

H.R.4627/ S.2327 would provide long-term security, stability and protection to Afghan refugees and their families rebuilding their lives in the U.S. while also allowing for significant contributions to the U.S. economy and communities nationwide. The bill is also modeled after similar humanitarian action the U.S. took after the Cuban revolution, the withdrawal from Vietnam and both military actions in Iraq.

Supporters: The Afghan Adjustment Act was introduced in the Senate by Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) along with eight original cosponsors on July 13, 2023. A companion bill was also introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA-01) and Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-03) with 22 bipartisan original cosponsors on July 13, 2023 as well.