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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Afghan Allies  
Protection Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and the  
Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, and for other  
purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Afghan Adjustment  
5       Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1           (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
2       GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
3       gress” means—

4           (A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
5       Senate;

6           (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
7       the Senate;

8           (C) the Committee on Armed Services of  
9       the Senate;

10          (D) the Committee on Appropriations of  
11       the Senate;

12          (E) the Committee on Homeland Security  
13       and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

14          (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
15       House of Representatives;

16          (G) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
17       the House of Representatives;

18          (H) the Committee on Armed Services of  
19       the House of Representatives;

20          (I) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
21       House of Representatives; and

22          (J) the Committee on Homeland Security  
23       of the House of Representatives.

24       (2) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigra-  
25       tion laws” has the meaning given such term in sec-

1       tion 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality  
2       Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

3           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4       the Secretary of Homeland Security.

5           (4) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.—The term  
6       “special immigrant status” means special immigrant  
7       status provided under—

8           (A) the Afghan Allies Protection Act of  
9       2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8);

10          (B) section 1059 of the National Defense  
11       Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8  
12       U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 109–163); or

13          (C) subparagraph (N) of section  
14       101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality  
15       Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by sec-  
16       tion 7(a).

17          (5) SPECIFIED APPLICATION.—The term “spec-  
18       ified application” means—

19          (A) a pending, documentarily complete ap-  
20       plication for special immigrant status; and

21          (B) a case in processing in the United  
22       States Refugee Admissions Program for an in-  
23       dividual who has received a Priority 1 or Pri-  
24       ority 2 referral to such program.

1           (6) UNITED STATES REFUGEE ADMISSIONS  
2       PROGRAM.—The term “United States Refugee Ad-  
3       missions Program” means the program to resettle  
4       refugees in the United States pursuant to the au-  
5       thorities provided in sections 101(a)(42), 207, and  
6       412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
7       U.S.C. 1101(a)(42), 1157, and 1522).

8   **SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN ALLIES OUTSIDE THE**  
9                           **UNITED STATES.**

10       (a) RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES.—The  
11       Secretary of State shall respond to inquiries by Members  
12       of Congress regarding the status of a specified application  
13       submitted by, or on behalf of, a national of Afghanistan,  
14       including any information that has been provided to the  
15       applicant, in accordance with section 222(f) of the Immi-  
16       gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(f)).

17       (b) OFFICE IN LIEU OF EMBASSY.—During the pe-  
18       riod in which there is no operational United States em-  
19       bassy in Afghanistan, the Secretary of State shall des-  
20       ignate an appropriate office within the Department of  
21       State—

22               (1) to review specified applications submitted by  
23       nationals of Afghanistan residing in Afghanistan, in-  
24       cluding by conducting any required interviews;

1           (2) to issue visas or other travel documents to  
2       such nationals, in accordance with the immigration  
3       laws;

4           (3) to provide services to such nationals, to the  
5       greatest extent practicable, that would normally be  
6       provided by an embassy; and

7           (4) to carry out any other function the Sec-  
8       retary of State considers necessary.

9   **SEC. 4. CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR**  
10                   **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**

11       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12           (1) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STA-  
13       TUS.—The term “conditional permanent resident  
14       status” means conditional permanent resident status  
15       under section 216 and 216A of the Immigration and  
16       Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186a, 1186b), subject to  
17       the provisions of this section.

18           (2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible  
19       individual” means an alien who—

20                   (A) is present in the United States;

21                   (B) is a citizen or national of Afghanistan  
22       or, in the case of an alien having no nationality,  
23       is a person who last habitually resided in Af-  
24       ghanistan;

1 (C) has not been granted permanent resi-  
2 dent status;

3 (D)(i) was inspected and admitted to the  
4 United States on or before the date of the en-  
5 actment of this Act; or

6 (ii) was paroled into the United States  
7 during the period beginning on July 30, 2021,  
8 and ending on the date of the enactment of this  
9 Act, provided that—

10 (I) such parole has not been termi-  
11 nated by the Secretary upon written notice;  
12 and

13 (II) the alien did not enter the United  
14 States at a location between ports of entry  
15 along the southwest land border; and

16 (E) is admissible to the United States as  
17 an immigrant under the applicable immigration  
18 laws, including eligibility for waivers of grounds  
19 of inadmissibility to the extent provided by the  
20 immigration laws and the terms of this section.

21 (b) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS  
22 FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—

23 (1) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO CONDITIONAL  
24 PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—Beginning on the  
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary—

1 (A) may adjust the status of each eligible  
2 individual to that of an alien lawfully admitted  
3 for permanent residence status, subject to the  
4 procedures established by the Secretary to de-  
5 termine eligibility for conditional permanent  
6 resident status; and

7 (B) shall create for each eligible individual  
8 who is granted adjustment of status under this  
9 section a record of admission to such status as  
10 of the date on which the eligible individual was  
11 initially inspected and admitted or paroled into  
12 the United States, or July 30, 2021, whichever  
13 is later,

14 unless the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case  
15 basis, that such individual is inadmissible under any  
16 ground of inadmissibility under section 212 (other  
17 than subsection (a)(4)) of the Immigration and Na-  
18 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) and is not eligible for  
19 a waiver of such grounds of inadmissibility as pro-  
20 vided by this Act or by the immigration laws.

21 (2) **CONDITIONAL BASIS.**—An individual who  
22 obtains lawful permanent resident status under this  
23 section shall be considered, at the time of obtaining  
24 the status of an alien lawfully admitted for perma-  
25 nent residence, to have obtained such status on a

1 conditional basis subject to the provisions of this  
2 section.

3 (c) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS  
4 DESCRIBED.—

5 (1) ASSESSMENT.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Before granting condi-  
7 tional permanent resident status to an eligible  
8 individual under subsection (b)(1), the Sec-  
9 retary shall conduct an assessment with respect  
10 to the eligible individual, which shall be equiva-  
11 lent in rigor to the assessment conducted with  
12 respect to refugees admitted to the United  
13 States through the United States Refugee Ad-  
14 missions Program, for the purpose of deter-  
15 mining whether the eligible individual is inad-  
16 missible under any ground of inadmissibility  
17 under section 212 (other than subsection  
18 (a)(4)) of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
19 (8 U.S.C. 1182) and is not eligible for a waiver  
20 of such grounds of inadmissibility under para-  
21 graph (2)(C) or the immigration laws.

22 (B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting an as-  
23 sessment under subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
24 retary may consult with the head of any other



1 relevant agency and review the holdings of any  
2 such agency.

3 (2) REMOVAL OF CONDITIONS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than the  
5 date described in subparagraph (B), the Sec-  
6 retary may remove the conditional basis of the  
7 status of an individual granted conditional per-  
8 manent resident status under this section un-  
9 less the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case  
10 basis, that such individual is inadmissible under  
11 any ground of inadmissibility under paragraph  
12 (2) or (3) of section 212(a) of the Immigration  
13 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)), and is  
14 not eligible for a waiver of such grounds of in-  
15 admissibility under subparagraph (C) or the im-  
16 migration laws.

17 (B) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date de-  
18 scribed in this subparagraph is the earlier of—

19 (i) the date that is 4 years after the  
20 date on which the individual was admitted  
21 or paroled into the United States; or

22 (ii) July 1, 2027.

23 (C) WAIVER.—

24 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided  
25 in clause (ii), to determine eligibility for

1 conditional permanent resident status  
2 under subsection (b) or removal of condi-  
3 tions under this paragraph, the Secretary  
4 may waive the application of the grounds  
5 of inadmissibility under section 212(a) of  
6 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
7 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian pur-  
8 poses or to ensure family unity.

9 (ii) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may  
10 not waive under clause (i) the application  
11 of subparagraphs (C) through (E) and (G)  
12 through (H) of paragraph (2), or para-  
13 graph (3), of section 212(a) of the Immi-  
14 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
15 1182(a)).

16 (iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Noth-  
17 ing in this subparagraph may be construed  
18 to expand or limit any other waiver author-  
19 ity applicable under the immigration laws  
20 to an individual who is otherwise eligible  
21 for adjustment of status.

22 (D) TIMELINE.—Not later than 180 days  
23 after the date described in subparagraph (B),  
24 the Secretary shall, to the greatest extent prac-  
25 ticable, remove conditions as to all individuals

1 granted conditional permanent resident status  
2 under this section who are eligible for removal  
3 of conditions.

4 (3) TREATMENT OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF  
5 STATUS PERIOD FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZA-  
6 TION.—An individual in conditional permanent resi-  
7 dent status under this section shall be considered—

8 (A) to have been admitted to the United  
9 States as an alien lawfully admitted for perma-  
10 nent residence; and

11 (B) to be present in the United States as  
12 an alien lawfully admitted to the United States  
13 for permanent residence, provided that, no alien  
14 granted conditional permanent resident status  
15 shall be naturalized unless the alien's conditions  
16 have been removed under this section.

17 (d) TERMINATION OF CONDITIONAL PERMANENT  
18 RESIDENT STATUS.—Conditional permanent resident sta-  
19 tus shall terminate on, as applicable—

20 (1) the date on which the Secretary removes the  
21 conditions pursuant to subsection (c)(2), on which  
22 date the alien shall be lawfully admitted for perma-  
23 nent residence without conditions;

24 (2) the date on which the Secretary determines  
25 that the alien was not an eligible individual under

1 subsection (a)(2) as of the date that such conditional  
2 permanent resident status was granted, on which  
3 date of the Secretary's determination the alien shall  
4 no longer be an alien lawfully admitted for perma-  
5 nent residence; or

6 (3) the date on which the Secretary determines  
7 pursuant to subsection (c)(2) that the alien is not el-  
8 ible for removal of conditions, on which date the  
9 alien shall no longer be an alien lawfully admitted  
10 for permanent residence.

11 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
12 tion shall be construed to limit the authority of the Sec-  
13 retary at any time to place in removal proceedings under  
14 section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
15 U.S.C. 1229a) any alien who has conditional permanent  
16 resident status under this section, if the alien is deportable  
17 under section 237 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1227) under a  
18 ground of deportability applicable to an alien who has been  
19 lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

20 (f) PAROLE EXPIRATION TOLLED.—The expiration  
21 date of a period of parole shall not apply to an individual  
22 under consideration for conditional permanent resident  
23 status under this section, until such time as the Secretary  
24 has determined whether to issue conditional permanent  
25 resident status.

1 (g) PERIODIC NONADVERSARIAL MEETINGS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
3 after the date on which an individual is conferred  
4 conditional permanent resident status under this  
5 section, and periodically thereafter, the Office of  
6 Refugee Resettlement shall make available opportu-  
7 nities for the individual to participate in a nonadver-  
8 sarial meeting, during which an official of the Office  
9 of Refugee Resettlement (or an agency funded by  
10 the Office) shall—

11 (A) on request by the individual, assist the  
12 individual in a referral or application for appli-  
13 cable benefits administered by the Department  
14 of Health and Human Services and completing  
15 any applicable paperwork; and

16 (B) answer any questions regarding eligi-  
17 bility for other benefits administered by the  
18 United States Government.

19 (2) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not  
20 later than 7 days before the date on which a meeting  
21 under paragraph (1) is scheduled to occur, the Sec-  
22 retary of Health and Human Services shall provide  
23 notice to the individual that includes the date of the  
24 scheduled meeting and a description of the process  
25 for rescheduling the meeting.

1           (3) CONDUCT OF MEETING.—The Secretary of  
2       Health and Human Services shall implement prac-  
3       tices to ensure that—

4           (A) meetings under paragraph (1) are con-  
5       ducted in a nonadversarial manner; and

6           (B) interpretation and translation services  
7       are provided to individuals granted conditional  
8       permanent resident status under this section  
9       who have limited English proficiency.

10          (4) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
11       this subsection shall be construed—

12           (A) to prevent an individual from electing  
13       to have counsel present during a meeting under  
14       paragraph (1); or

15           (B) in the event that an individual declines  
16       to participate in such a meeting, to affect the  
17       individual's conditional permanent resident sta-  
18       tus under this section or eligibility to have con-  
19       ditions removed in accordance with this section.

20          (h) CONSIDERATION.—Except with respect to an ap-  
21       plication for naturalization and the benefits described in  
22       subsection (p), an individual in conditional permanent  
23       resident status under this section shall be considered to  
24       be an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence for

1 purposes of the adjudication of an application or petition  
2 for a benefit or the receipt of a benefit.

3 (i) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later  
4 than 90 days after the date on which the status of an  
5 individual is adjusted to that of conditional permanent  
6 resident status under this section, the Secretary shall pro-  
7 vide notice to such individual with respect to the provisions  
8 of this section, including subsection (c)(1) (relating to the  
9 conduct of assessments) and subsection (g) (relating to  
10 periodic nonadversarial meetings).

11 (j) APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION.—The Sec-  
12 retary shall establish procedures whereby an individual  
13 who would otherwise be eligible to apply for naturalization  
14 but for having conditional permanent resident status, may  
15 be considered for naturalization coincident with removal  
16 of conditions under subsection (c)(2).

17 (k) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS DATE.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—An alien described in para-  
19 graph (2) shall be regarded as lawfully admitted for  
20 permanent residence as of the date the alien was ini-  
21 tially inspected and admitted or paroled into the  
22 United States, or July 30, 2021, whichever is later.

23 (2) ALIEN DESCRIBED.—An alien described in  
24 this paragraph is an alien who—

1 (A) is described in subparagraph (A), (B),  
2 or (D) of subsection (a)(2), and whose status  
3 was adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admit-  
4 ted for permanent residence on or after July  
5 30, 2021, but on or before the date of the en-  
6 actment of this Act; or

7 (B) is an eligible individual whose status is  
8 then adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admit-  
9 ted for permanent residence after the date of  
10 the enactment of this Act under any provision  
11 of the immigration laws other than this section.

12 (I) PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS OF UNACCOM-  
13 PANIED CHILDREN.—A parent or legal guardian of an eli-  
14 gible individual shall be eligible to obtain status as an alien  
15 lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional  
16 basis if—

17 (1) the eligible individual—

18 (A) was under 18 years of age on the date  
19 on which the eligible individual was granted  
20 conditional permanent resident status under  
21 this section; and

22 (B) was not accompanied by at least one  
23 parent or guardian on the date the eligible indi-  
24 vidual was admitted or paroled into the United  
25 States; and



1 (2) such parent or legal guardian was admitted  
2 or paroled into the United States after the date re-  
3 ferred to in paragraph (1)(B).

4 (m) GUIDANCE.—

5 (1) INTERIM GUIDANCE.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120  
7 days after the date of the enactment of this  
8 Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance imple-  
9 menting this section.

10 (B) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding sec-  
11 tion 553 of title 5, United States Code, guid-  
12 ance issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)—

13 (i) may be published on the internet  
14 website of the Department of Homeland  
15 Security; and

16 (ii) shall be effective on an interim  
17 basis immediately upon such publication  
18 but may be subject to change and revision  
19 after notice and an opportunity for public  
20 comment.

21 (2) FINAL GUIDANCE.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
23 days after the date of issuance of guidance  
24 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall final-  
25 ize the guidance implementing this section.

1 (B) EXEMPTION FROM THE ADMINISTRA-  
2 TIVE PROCEDURES ACT.—Chapter 5 of title 5,  
3 United States Code (commonly known as the  
4 “Administrative Procedures Act”), or any other  
5 law relating to rulemaking or information col-  
6 lection, shall not apply to the guidance issued  
7 under this paragraph.

8 (n) ASYLUM CLAIMS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the adju-  
10 dication of an application for asylum submitted by  
11 an eligible individual, section 2502(c) of the Extend-  
12 ing Government Funding and Delivering Emergency  
13 Assistance Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law  
14 117–43) shall not apply.

15 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this  
16 section may be construed to prohibit an eligible indi-  
17 vidual from seeking or receiving asylum under sec-  
18 tion 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
19 U.S.C. 1158).

20 (o) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary may not  
21 charge a fee to any eligible individual in connection with  
22 the initial issuance under this section of—

23 (1) a document evidencing status as an alien  
24 lawfully admitted for permanent residence or condi-  
25 tional permanent resident status; or

1 (2) an employment authorization document.

2 (p) ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
4 provision of law—

5 (A) an individual described in subsection  
6 (a) of section 2502 of the Afghanistan Supple-  
7 mental Appropriations Act, 2022 (8 U.S.C.  
8 1101 note; Public Law 117–43) shall retain his  
9 or her eligibility for the benefits and services  
10 described in subsection (b) of such section if the  
11 individual is under consideration for, or is  
12 granted, adjustment of status under this sec-  
13 tion; and

14 (B) such benefits and services shall remain  
15 available to the individual to the same extent  
16 and for the same periods of time as such bene-  
17 fits and services are otherwise available to refu-  
18 gees who acquire such status.

19 (2) EXCEPTION FROM 5-YEAR LIMITED ELIGI-  
20 BILITY FOR MEANS-TESTED PUBLIC BENEFITS.—  
21 Section 403(b)(1) of the Personal Responsibility and  
22 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8  
23 U.S.C. 1613(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end  
24 the following:

1           “(F) An alien whose status is adjusted  
2           under section 4 of the Afghan Adjustment Act  
3           to that of an alien lawfully admitted for perma-  
4           nent residence or to that of an alien lawfully  
5           admitted for permanent residence on a condi-  
6           tional basis.”.

7           (q) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
8           tion may be construed to preclude an eligible individual  
9           from applying for or receiving any immigration benefit to  
10          which the individual is otherwise entitled.

11          (r) EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—Aliens granted conditional  
13           permanent resident status or lawful permanent resi-  
14           dent status under this section shall not be subject to  
15           the numerical limitations under sections 201, 202,  
16           and 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
17           U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1153).

18           (2) SPOUSE AND CHILDREN BENEFICIARIES.—

19           A spouse or child who is the beneficiary of an immi-  
20           grant petition under section 204 of the Immigration  
21           and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) filed by an  
22           alien who has been granted conditional permanent  
23           resident status or lawful permanent resident status  
24           under this section, seeking classification of the  
25           spouse or child under section 203(a)(2)(A) of that

1 Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)(2)(A)) shall not be subject to  
2 the numerical limitations under sections 201, 202,  
3 and 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
4 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1153).

5 (s) EFFECT ON OTHER APPLICATIONS.—Notwith-  
6 standing any other provision of law, in the interest of effi-  
7 ciency, the Secretary may pause consideration of any ap-  
8 plication or request for an immigration benefit pending  
9 adjudication so as to prioritize consideration of adjust-  
10 ment of status to an alien lawfully admitted for permanent  
11 residence on a conditional basis under this section.

12 (t) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
13 is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General,  
14 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Sec-  
15 retary, and the Secretary of State such sums as are nec-  
16 essary to carry out this section.

17 **SEC. 5. REFUGEE PROCESSES FOR CERTAIN AT-RISK AF-**  
18 **GHAN ALLIES.**

19 (a) DEFINITION OF AFGHAN ALLY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term  
21 “Afghan ally” means an alien who is a citizen or na-  
22 tional of Afghanistan, or in the case of an alien hav-  
23 ing no nationality, an alien who last habitually re-  
24 sided in Afghanistan, who—

25 (A) was—

1 (i) a member of—

2 (I) the special operations forces  
3 of the Afghanistan National Defense  
4 and Security Forces;

5 (II) the Afghanistan National  
6 Army Special Operations Command;

7 (III) the Afghan Air Force; or

8 (IV) the Special Mission Wing of  
9 Afghanistan;

10 (ii) a female member of any other en-  
11 tity of the Afghanistan National Defense  
12 and Security Forces, including—

13 (I) a cadet or instructor at the  
14 Afghanistan National Defense Univer-  
15 sity; and

16 (II) a civilian employee of the  
17 Ministry of Defense or the Ministry of  
18 Interior Affairs;

19 (iii) an individual associated with  
20 former Afghan military and police human  
21 intelligence activities, including operators  
22 and Department of Defense sources;

23 (iv) an individual associated with  
24 former Afghan military counterintelligence,  
25 counterterrorism, or counternarcotics;

1 (v) an individual associated with the  
2 former Afghan Ministry of Defense, Min-  
3 istry of Interior Affairs, or court system,  
4 and who was involved in the investigation,  
5 prosecution or detention of combatants or  
6 members of the Taliban or criminal net-  
7 works affiliated with the Taliban;

8 (vi) an individual employed in the  
9 former justice sector in Afghanistan as a  
10 judge, prosecutor, or investigator who was  
11 engaged in rule of law activities for which  
12 the United States provided funding or  
13 training; or

14 (vii) a senior military officer, senior  
15 enlisted personnel, or civilian official who  
16 served on the staff of the former Ministry  
17 of Defense or the former Ministry of Inte-  
18 rior Affairs of Afghanistan; or

19 (B) provided service to an entity or organi-  
20 zation described in subparagraph (A) for not  
21 less than 1 year during the period beginning on  
22 December 22, 2001, and ending on September  
23 1, 2021, and did so in support of the United  
24 States mission in Afghanistan.

1           (2) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section,  
2       the Afghanistan National Defense and Security  
3       Forces includes members of the security forces  
4       under the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of  
5       Interior Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghani-  
6       stan, including the Afghanistan National Army, the  
7       Afghan Air Force, the Afghanistan National Police,  
8       and any other entity designated by the Secretary of  
9       Defense as part of the Afghanistan National De-  
10      fense and Security Forces during the relevant period  
11      of service of the applicant concerned.

12      (b) REFUGEE STATUS FOR AFGHAN ALLIES.—

13           (1) DESIGNATION AS REFUGEES OF SPECIAL  
14      HUMANITARIAN CONCERN.—Afghan allies shall be  
15      considered refugees of special humanitarian concern  
16      under section 207 of the Immigration and Nation-  
17      ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157), until the later of 10 years  
18      after the date of enactment of this Act or upon de-  
19      termination by the Secretary of State, in consulta-  
20      tion with the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-  
21      retary, that such designation is no longer in the in-  
22      terest of the United States.

23           (2) THIRD COUNTRY PRESENCE NOT RE-  
24      QUIRED.—Notwithstanding section 101(a)(42) of the  
25      Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.



1       1101(a)(42)), the Secretary of State and the Sec-  
2       retary shall, to the greatest extent possible, conduct  
3       remote refugee processing for an Afghan ally located  
4       in Afghanistan.

5       (c) AFGHAN ALLIES REFERRAL PROGRAM.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
7       after the date of the enactment of this Act—

8           (A) the Secretary of Defense, in consulta-  
9       tion with the Secretary of State, shall establish  
10      a process by which an individual may apply to  
11      the Secretary of Defense for classification as an  
12      Afghan ally and request a referral to the United  
13      States Refugee Admissions Program; and

14          (B) the head of any appropriate depart-  
15      ment or agency that conducted operations in  
16      Afghanistan during the period beginning on De-  
17      cember 22, 2001, and ending on September 1,  
18      2021, in consultation with the Secretary of  
19      State, may establish a process by which an indi-  
20      vidual may apply to the head of the appropriate  
21      department or agency for classification as an  
22      Afghan ally and request a referral to the United  
23      States Refugee Admissions Program.

24          (2) APPLICATION SYSTEM.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The process established  
2 under paragraph (1) shall—

3 (i) include the development and main-  
4 tenance of a secure online portal through  
5 which applicants may provide information  
6 verifying their status as Afghan allies and  
7 upload supporting documentation; and

8 (ii) allow—

9 (I) an applicant to submit his or  
10 her own application;

11 (II) a designee of an applicant to  
12 submit an application on behalf of the  
13 applicant; and

14 (III) in the case of an applicant  
15 who is outside the United States, the  
16 submission of an application regard-  
17 less of where the applicant is located.

18 (B) USE BY OTHER AGENCIES.—The Sec-  
19 retary of Defense—

20 (i) may enter into arrangements with  
21 the head of any other appropriate depart-  
22 ment or agency so as to allow the applica-  
23 tion system established under subpara-  
24 graph (A) to be used by such department  
25 or agency; and

1 (ii) shall notify the Secretary of State  
2 of any such arrangement.

3 (3) REVIEW PROCESS.—As soon as practicable  
4 after receiving a request for classification and refer-  
5 ral described in paragraph (1), the head of the ap-  
6 propriate department or agency shall—

7 (A) review—

8 (i) the service record of the applicant,  
9 if available;

10 (ii) if the applicant provides a service  
11 record or other supporting documentation,  
12 any information that helps verify the serv-  
13 ice record concerned, including information  
14 or an attestation provided by any current  
15 or former official of the department or  
16 agency who has personal knowledge of the  
17 eligibility of the applicant for such classi-  
18 fication and referral; and

19 (iii) the data holdings of the depart-  
20 ment or agency and other cooperating  
21 interagency partners, including as applica-  
22 ble biographic and biometric records, iris  
23 scans, fingerprints, voice biometric infor-  
24 mation, hand geometry biometrics, other  
25 identifiable information, and any other in-

1                   formation related to the applicant, includ-  
2                   ing relevant derogatory information; and

3                   (B)(i) in a case in which the head of the  
4                   department or agency determines that the ap-  
5                   plicant is an Afghan ally without significant de-  
6                   rogatory information, refer the Afghan ally to  
7                   the United States Refugee Admissions Program  
8                   as a refugee; and

9                   (ii) include with such referral—

10                   (I) any service record concerned,  
11                   if available;

12                   (II) if the applicant provides a  
13                   service record, any information that  
14                   helps verify the service record con-  
15                   cerned; and

16                   (III) any biometrics for the appli-  
17                   cant.

18                   (4) REVIEW PROCESS FOR DENIAL OF REQUEST  
19                   FOR REFERRAL.—

20                   (A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an appli-  
21                   cant with respect to whom the head of the ap-  
22                   propriate department or agency denies a re-  
23                   quest for classification and referral based on a  
24                   determination that the applicant is not an Af-  
25                   ghan ally or based on derogatory information—

1 (i) the head of the department or  
2 agency shall provide the applicant with a  
3 written notice of the denial that provides,  
4 to the maximum extent practicable, a de-  
5 scription of the basis for the denial, includ-  
6 ing the facts and inferences, or evidentiary  
7 gaps, underlying the individual determina-  
8 tion; and

9 (ii) the applicant shall be provided an  
10 opportunity to submit not more than 1  
11 written appeal to the head of the depart-  
12 ment or agency for each such denial.

13 (B) DEADLINE FOR APPEAL.—An appeal  
14 under clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be  
15 submitted—

16 (i) not more than 120 days after the  
17 date on which the applicant concerned re-  
18 ceives notice under clause (i) of that sub-  
19 paragraph; or

20 (ii) on any date thereafter, at the dis-  
21 cretion of the head of the appropriate de-  
22 partment or agency.

23 (C) REQUEST TO REOPEN.—

24 (i) IN GENERAL.—An applicant who  
25 receives a denial under subparagraph (A)

1                   may submit a request to reopen a request  
2                   for classification and referral under the  
3                   process established under paragraph (1) so  
4                   that the applicant may provide additional  
5                   information, clarify existing information,  
6                   or explain any unfavorable information.

7                   (ii) LIMITATION.—After considering 1  
8                   such request to reopen from an applicant,  
9                   the head of the appropriate department or  
10                  agency may deny subsequent requests to  
11                  reopen submitted by the same applicant.

12               (5) FORM AND CONTENT OF REFERRAL.—To  
13               the extent practicable, the head of the appropriate  
14               department or agency shall ensure that referrals  
15               made under this subsection—

16               (A) conform to requirements established by  
17               the Secretary of State for form and content;  
18               and

19               (B) are complete and include sufficient  
20               contact information, supporting documentation,  
21               and any other material the Secretary of State  
22               or the Secretary consider necessary or helpful  
23               in determining whether an applicant is entitled  
24               to refugee status.

1           (6) TERMINATION.—The application process  
2           and referral system under this subsection shall ter-  
3           minate upon the later of 1 year before the termi-  
4           nation of the designation under subsection (b)(1) or  
5           on the date of a joint determination by the Secretary  
6           of State and the Secretary of Defense, in consulta-  
7           tion with the Secretary, that such termination is in  
8           the national interest of the United States.

9           (d) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

10          (1) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary,  
11          the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, or  
12          the head of any appropriate department or agency  
13          referring Afghan allies under this section may not  
14          charge any fee in connection with a request for a  
15          classification and referral as a refugee under this  
16          section.

17          (2) DEFENSE PERSONNEL.—Any limitation in  
18          law with respect to the number of personnel within  
19          the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military  
20          departments, or a Defense Agency (as defined in  
21          section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) shall  
22          not apply to personnel employed for the primary  
23          purpose of carrying out this section.

24          (3) REPRESENTATION.—An alien applying for  
25          admission to the United States under this section

1        may be represented during the application process,  
2        including at relevant interviews and examinations,  
3        by an attorney or other accredited representative.  
4        Such representation shall not be at the expense of  
5        the United States Government.

6            (4) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of  
7        State, in consultation with the head of any other ap-  
8        propriate Federal agency, shall make a reasonable  
9        effort to provide an alien who has been classified as  
10       an Afghan ally and has been referred as a refugee  
11       under this section protection or to immediately re-  
12       move such alien from Afghanistan, if possible.

13           (5) OTHER ELIGIBILITY FOR IMMIGRANT STA-  
14        TUS.—No alien shall be denied the opportunity to  
15        apply for admission under this section solely because  
16        the alien qualifies as an immediate relative or is eli-  
17        gible for any other immigrant classification.

18           (6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
19        There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
20        as necessary for each of fiscal years 2025 through  
21        2034 to carry out this section.

22           (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
23        tion may be construed to inhibit the Secretary of State  
24        from accepting refugee referrals from any entity.



1   **SEC. 6. IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND OVERSIGHT OF REF-**  
2                   **UGEE AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT PROC-**  
3                   **ESSING.**

4       (a) ACCEPTANCE OF FINGERPRINT CARDS AND SUB-  
5 MISSIONS OF BIOMETRICS.—In addition to the methods  
6 authorized under the heading relating to the Immigration  
7 and Naturalization Service under title I of the Depart-  
8 ments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and  
9 Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998 (Public Law  
10 105–119, 111 Stat. 2448; 8 U.S.C. 1103 note), and other  
11 applicable law, and subject to such safeguards as the Sec-  
12 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of State or the  
13 Secretary of Defense, as appropriate, shall prescribe to en-  
14 sure the integrity of the biometric collection (which shall  
15 include verification of identity by comparison of such fin-  
16 gerprints with fingerprints taken by or under the direct  
17 supervision of the Secretary prior to or at the time of the  
18 individual’s application for admission to the United  
19 States), the Secretary may, in the case of any application  
20 for any benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act  
21 (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), accept fingerprint cards or any  
22 other submission of biometrics—

23           (1) prepared by international or nongovern-  
24       mental organizations under an appropriate agree-  
25       ment with the Secretary or the Secretary of State;

1           (2) prepared by employees or contractors of the  
2     Department of Homeland Security or the Depart-  
3     ment of State; or

4           (3) provided by an agency (as defined under  
5     section 3502 of title 44, United States Code).

6     (b) STAFFING.—

7           (1) VETTING.—The Secretary of State, the Sec-  
8     retary, the Secretary of Defense, and any other  
9     agency authorized to carry out the vetting process  
10    under this Act, shall each ensure sufficient staffing,  
11    and request the resources necessary, to efficiently  
12    and adequately carry out the vetting of applicants  
13    for—

14           (A) referral to the United States Refugee  
15    Admissions Program, consistent with the deter-  
16    minations established under section 207 of the  
17    Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
18    1157); and

19           (B) special immigrant status.

20           (2) REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.—The Secretary  
21    of Health and Human Services shall ensure suffi-  
22    cient staffing to efficiently provide assistance under  
23    chapter 2 of title IV of the Immigration and Nation-  
24    ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1521 et seq.) to refugees reset-  
25    tled in the United States.

1       (c) REMOTE PROCESSING.—Notwithstanding any  
2 other provision of law, the Secretary of State and the Sec-  
3 retary shall employ remote processing capabilities for ref-  
4 ugee processing under section 207 of the Immigration and  
5 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157), including secure digital  
6 file transfers, videoconferencing and teleconferencing ca-  
7 pabilities, remote review of applications, remote inter-  
8 views, remote collection of signatures, waiver of the appli-  
9 cant’s appearance or signature (other than a final appear-  
10 ance and verification by the oath of the applicant prior  
11 to or at the time of the individual’s application for admis-  
12 sion to the United States), waiver of signature for individ-  
13 uals under 5 years old, and any other capability the Sec-  
14 retary of State and the Secretary consider appropriate, se-  
15 cure, and likely to reduce processing wait times at par-  
16 ticular facilities.

17       (d) MONTHLY ARRIVAL REPORTS.—With respect to  
18 monthly reports issued by the Secretary of State relating  
19 to United States Refugee Admissions Program arrivals,  
20 the Secretary of State shall report—

21               (1) the number of monthly admissions of refu-  
22 gees, disaggregated by priorities; and

23               (2) the number of Afghan allies admitted as  
24 refugees.

1 (e) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON AFGHAN ALLY  
2 STRATEGY.—

3 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
5 President shall establish an Interagency Task Force  
6 on Afghan Ally Strategy (referred to in this section  
7 as the “Task Force”)—

8 (A) to develop and oversee the implementa-  
9 tion of the strategy and contingency plan de-  
10 scribed in subparagraph (A)(i) of paragraph  
11 (4); and

12 (B) to submit the report, and provide a  
13 briefing on the report, as described in subpara-  
14 graphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (4).

15 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall  
17 include—

18 (i) 1 or more representatives from  
19 each relevant Federal agency, as des-  
20 ignated by the head of the applicable rel-  
21 evant Federal agency; and

22 (ii) any other Federal Government of-  
23 ficial designated by the President.

1 (B) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCY DE-  
2 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term “relevant  
3 Federal agency” means—

- 4 (i) the Department of State;  
5 (ii) the Department Homeland Secu-  
6 rity;  
7 (iii) the Department of Defense;  
8 (iv) the Department of Health and  
9 Human Services;  
10 (v) the Department of Justice; and  
11 (vi) the Office of the Director of Na-  
12 tional Intelligence.

13 (3) CHAIR.—The Task Force shall be chaired  
14 by the Secretary of State.

15 (4) DUTIES.—

16 (A) REPORT.—

17 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
18 days after the date on which the Task  
19 Force is established, the Task Force, act-  
20 ing through the chair of the Task Force,  
21 shall submit a report to the appropriate  
22 committees of Congress that includes—

23 (I) a strategy for facilitating the  
24 resettlement of nationals of Afghani-  
25 stan outside the United States who,

1 during the period beginning on Octo-  
2 ber 1, 2001, and ending on September  
3 1, 2021, directly and personally sup-  
4 ported the United States mission in  
5 Afghanistan, as determined by the  
6 Secretary of State in consultation  
7 with the Secretary of Defense; and

8 (II) a contingency plan for future  
9 emergency operations in foreign coun-  
10 tries involving foreign nationals who  
11 have worked directly with the United  
12 States Government, including the  
13 Armed Forces of the United States  
14 and United States intelligence agen-  
15 cies.

16 (ii) ELEMENTS.—The report required  
17 under clause (i) shall include—

18 (I) the total number of nationals  
19 of Afghanistan who have pending  
20 specified applications, disaggregated  
21 by—

22 (aa) such nationals in Af-  
23 ghanistan and such nationals in  
24 a third country;

1 (bb) type of specified appli-  
2 cation; and

3 (cc) applications that are  
4 documentarily complete and ap-  
5 plications that are not  
6 documentarily complete;

7 (II) an estimate of the number of  
8 nationals of Afghanistan who may be  
9 eligible for special immigrant status  
10 or classification as an Afghan ally;

11 (III) with respect to the strategy  
12 required under subparagraph  
13 (A)(i)(I)—

14 (aa) the estimated number  
15 of nationals of Afghanistan de-  
16 scribed in such subparagraph;

17 (bb) a description of the  
18 process for safely resettling such  
19 nationals of Afghanistan;

20 (cc) a plan for processing  
21 such nationals of Afghanistan for  
22 admission to the United States  
23 that—

24 (AA) discusses the fea-  
25 sibility of remote processing

1 for such nationals of Af-  
2 ghanistan residing in Af-  
3 ghanistan;

4 (BB) includes any  
5 strategy for facilitating ref-  
6 ugee and consular proc-  
7 essing for such nationals of  
8 Afghanistan in third coun-  
9 tries, and the timelines for  
10 such processing;

11 (CC) includes a plan  
12 for conducting rigorous and  
13 efficient vetting of all such  
14 nationals of Afghanistan for  
15 processing;

16 (DD) discusses the  
17 availability and capacity of  
18 sites in third countries to  
19 process applications and  
20 conduct any required vetting  
21 for such nationals of Af-  
22 ghanistan, including the po-  
23 tential to establish addi-  
24 tional sites; and



1 (EE) includes a plan  
2 for providing updates and  
3 necessary information to af-  
4 fected individuals and rel-  
5 evant nongovernmental or-  
6 ganizations;

7 (dd) a description of consid-  
8 erations, including resource con-  
9 straints, security concerns, miss-  
10 ing or inaccurate information,  
11 and diplomatic considerations,  
12 that limit the ability of the Sec-  
13 retary of State or the Secretary  
14 to increase the number of such  
15 nationals of Afghanistan who can  
16 be safely processed or resettled;

17 (ee) an identification of any  
18 resource or additional authority  
19 necessary to increase the number  
20 of such nationals of Afghanistan  
21 who can be processed or reset-  
22 tled;

23 (ff) an estimate of the cost  
24 to fully implement the strategy;  
25 and

1 (gg) any other matter the  
2 Task Force considers relevant to  
3 the implementation of the strat-  
4 egy;

5 (IV) with respect to the contin-  
6 gency plan required by clause  
7 (i)(II)—

8 (aa) a description of the  
9 standard practices for screening  
10 and vetting foreign nationals con-  
11 sidered to be eligible for resettlement  
12 in the United States, including  
13 a strategy for vetting,  
14 and maintaining the records of,  
15 such foreign nationals who are  
16 unable to provide identification  
17 documents or biographic details  
18 due to emergency circumstances;

19 (bb) a strategy for facilitating  
20 refugee or consular processing  
21 for such foreign nationals  
22 in third countries;

23 (cc) clear guidance with respect  
24 to which Federal agency  
25 has the authority and responsi-

1 bility to coordinate Federal reset-  
2 tlement efforts;

3 (dd) a description of any re-  
4 source or additional authority  
5 necessary to coordinate Federal  
6 resettlement efforts, including  
7 the need for a contingency fund;

8 (ee) any other matter the  
9 Task Force considers relevant to  
10 the implementation of the contin-  
11 gency plan; and

12 (V) a strategy for the efficient  
13 processing of all Afghan special immi-  
14 grant visa applications and appeals,  
15 including—

16 (aa) a review of current  
17 staffing levels and needs across  
18 all interagency offices and offi-  
19 cials engaged in the special immi-  
20 grant visa process;

21 (bb) an analysis of the ex-  
22 pected Chief of Mission approvals  
23 and denials of applications in the  
24 pipeline in order to project the  
25 expected number of visas nec-

1           essary to provide special immi-  
2           grant status to all approved ap-  
3           plicants under this Act during  
4           the several years after the date of  
5           the enactment of this Act;

6                   (cc) an assessment as to  
7           whether adequate guidelines exist  
8           for reconsidering or reopening  
9           applications for special immi-  
10          grant visas in appropriate cir-  
11          cumstances and consistent with  
12          applicable laws; and

13                   (dd) an assessment of the  
14          procedures throughout the special  
15          immigrant visa application proc-  
16          ess, including at the Portsmouth  
17          Consular Center, and the effec-  
18          tiveness of communication be-  
19          tween the Portsmouth Consular  
20          Center and applicants, including  
21          an identification of any area in  
22          which improvements to the effi-  
23          ciency of such procedures and  
24          communication may be made.

1 (iii) FORM.—The report required  
2 under clause (i) shall be submitted in un-  
3 classified form but may include a classified  
4 annex.

5 (B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days  
6 after submitting the report required by clause  
7 (i), the Task Force shall brief the appropriate  
8 committees of Congress on the contents of the  
9 report.

10 (5) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall re-  
11 main in effect until the later of—

12 (A) the date on which the strategy re-  
13 quired under paragraph (4)(A)(i)(I) has been  
14 fully implemented;

15 (B) the date of a determination by the  
16 Secretary of State, in consultation with the Sec-  
17 retary of Defense and the Secretary, that a task  
18 force is no longer necessary for the implementa-  
19 tion of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of para-  
20 graph (1); or

21 (C) the date that is 10 years after the date  
22 of the enactment of this Act.

23 (f) IMPROVING CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.—  
24 Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
25 U.S.C. 1157) is amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a), by amending paragraph  
2           (4) to read as follows:

3           “(4)(A) In the determination made under this sub-  
4 section for each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year  
5 1992), the President shall enumerate, with the respective  
6 number of refugees so determined, the number of aliens  
7 who were granted asylum in the previous year.

8           “(B) In making a determination under paragraph  
9 (1), the President shall consider the information in the  
10 most recently published projected global resettlement  
11 needs report published by the United Nations High Com-  
12 missioner for Refugees.”;

13           (2) in subsection (e), by amending paragraph  
14           (2) to read as follows:

15           “(2) A description of the number and allocation  
16 of the refugees to be admitted, including the ex-  
17 pected allocation by region, and an analysis of the  
18 conditions within the countries from which they  
19 came.”; and

20           (3) by adding at the end the following—

21           “(g) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON ADMISSIONS.—Not  
22 later than 30 days after the last day of each quarter begin-  
23 ning the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2025, the President  
24 shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and  
25 Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary,

1 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate  
2 and the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee  
3 on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
4 of the House of Representatives a report that includes the  
5 following:

6 “(1) REFUGEES ADMITTED.—

7 “(A) The number of refugees admitted to  
8 the United States during the preceding quarter.

9 “(B) The cumulative number of refugees  
10 admitted to the United States during the appli-  
11 cable fiscal year, as of the last day of the pre-  
12 ceding quarter.

13 “(C) The number of refugees expected to  
14 be admitted to the United States during the re-  
15 mainder of the applicable fiscal year.

16 “(D) The number of refugees from each  
17 region admitted to the United States during the  
18 preceding quarter.

19 “(2) REFUGEE APPLICANTS WITH PENDING SE-  
20 CURITY CHECKS.—

21 “(A) The number of aliens, by nationality,  
22 security check, and responsible vetting agency,  
23 for whom a National Vetting Center or other  
24 security check has been requested during the  
25 preceding quarter, and the number of aliens, by

1           nationality, for whom the check was pending  
2           beyond 30 days.

3           “(B) The number of aliens, by nationality,  
4           security check, and responsible vetting agency,  
5           for whom a National Vetting Center or other  
6           security check has been pending for more than  
7           180 days.

8           “(3) CIRCUIT RIDES.—

9           “(A) For the preceding quarter—

10           “(i) the number of Refugee Corps of-  
11           ficers deployed on circuit rides and the  
12           overall number of Refugee Corps officers;

13           “(ii) the number of individuals inter-  
14           viewed—

15           “(I) on each circuit ride; and

16           “(II) at each circuit ride location;

17           “(iii) the number of circuit rides; and

18           “(iv) for each circuit ride, the dura-  
19           tion of the circuit ride.

20           “(B) For the subsequent 2 quarters—

21           “(i) the number of circuit rides  
22           planned; and

23           “(ii) the number of individuals  
24           planned to be interviewed.

25           “(4) PROCESSING.—



1           “(A) For refugees admitted to the United  
2 States during the preceding quarter, the aver-  
3 age number of days between—

4           “(i) the date on which an individual  
5 referred to the United States Government  
6 as a refugee applicant is interviewed by the  
7 Secretary of Homeland Security; and

8           “(ii) the date on which such individual  
9 is admitted to the United States.

10           “(B) For refugee applicants interviewed by  
11 the Secretary of Homeland Security in the pre-  
12 ceding quarter, the approval, denial, rec-  
13 ommended approval, recommended denial, and  
14 hold rates for the applications for admission of  
15 such individuals, disaggregated by nationality.”.

16 **SEC. 7. SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN VULNERABLE AFGHANS RE-**  
17 **LATING TO EMPLOYMENT BY OR ON BEHALF**  
18 **OF THE UNITED STATES.**

19           (a) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR CERTAIN REL-  
20 ATIVES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED  
21 FORCES.—

22           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27) of the  
23 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
24 1101(a)(27)) is amended—

1 (A) in subparagraph (L)(iii), by adding a  
2 semicolon at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (M), by striking the  
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(N) a citizen or national of Afghanistan  
7 who is the parent or brother or sister of—

8 “(i) a member of the armed forces (as  
9 defined in section 101(a) of title 10,  
10 United States Code); or

11 “(ii) a veteran (as defined in section  
12 101 of title 38, United States Code).”.

13 (2) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
15 graph (C), the total number of principal aliens  
16 who may be provided special immigrant visas  
17 under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27)  
18 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
19 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by paragraph  
20 (1), may not exceed 2,500 each fiscal year.

21 (B) CARRYOVER.—If the numerical limita-  
22 tion specified in subparagraph (A) is not  
23 reached during a given fiscal year, the numer-  
24 ical limitation specified in such subparagraph

1           for the following fiscal year shall be increased  
2           by a number equal to the difference between—

3                   (i) the numerical limitation specified  
4                   in subparagraph (A) for the given fiscal  
5                   year; and

6                   (ii) the number of principal aliens pro-  
7                   vided special immigrant visas under sub-  
8                   paragraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the  
9                   Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
10                  1101(a)(27)) during the given fiscal year.

11           (C) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISAS.—The  
12           total number of aliens who may be provided  
13           special immigrant visas under subparagraph  
14           (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration  
15           and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27))  
16           shall not exceed 10,000.

17           (D) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The au-  
18           thority to issue visas under subparagraph (N)  
19           of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and  
20           Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) shall—

21                   (i) commence on the date of the en-  
22                   actment of this Act; and

23                   (ii) terminate on the date on which all  
24                   such visas are exhausted.

1           (b) CERTAIN AFGHANS INJURED OR KILLED IN THE  
2 COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT.—Section 602(b) of the Af-  
3 ghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note;  
4 Public Law 111–8) is amended—

5           (1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

6           (A) by amending clause (ii) to read as fol-  
7 lows:

8           “(ii)(I) was or is employed in Afghan-  
9 istan on or after October 7, 2001, for not  
10 less than 1 year—

11           “(aa) by, or on behalf of, the  
12 United States Government; or

13           “(bb) by the International Secu-  
14 rity Assistance Force (or any suc-  
15 cessor name for such Force) in a ca-  
16 pacity that required the alien—

17           “(AA) while traveling off-  
18 base with United States military  
19 personnel stationed at the Inter-  
20 national Security Assistance  
21 Force (or any successor name for  
22 such Force), to serve as an inter-  
23 preter or translator for such  
24 United States military personnel;  
25 or

1 “(BB) to perform activities  
2 for the United States military  
3 personnel stationed at Inter-  
4 national Security Assistance  
5 Force (or any successor name for  
6 such Force); or

7 “(II) in the case of an alien who was  
8 wounded or seriously injured in connection  
9 with employment described in subclause  
10 (I), was employed for any period until the  
11 date on which such wound or injury oc-  
12 curred, if the wound or injury prevented  
13 the alien from continuing such employ-  
14 ment;”; and

15 (B) in clause (iii), by striking “clause (ii)”  
16 and inserting “clause (ii)(I)”;

17 (2) in paragraph (13)(A)(i), by striking “sub-  
18 clause (I) or (II)(bb) of paragraph (2)(A)(ii)” and  
19 inserting “item (aa) or (bb)(BB) of paragraph  
20 (2)(A)(ii)(I)”;

21 (3) in paragraph (14)(C), by striking “para-  
22 graph (2)(A)(ii)” and inserting “paragraph  
23 (2)(A)(ii)(I)”;

24 (4) in paragraph (15), by striking “paragraph  
25 (2)(A)(ii)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(I)”.

1 (c) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PRO-  
2 GRAM UNDER AFGHAN ALLIES PROTECTION ACT OF  
3 2009.—Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act  
4 of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is  
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3)(F)—

7 (A) in the subparagraph heading, by strik-  
8 ing “FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2022” and  
9 inserting “FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2029”;  
10 and

11 (B) in clause (i), by striking “December  
12 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2029”;  
13 and

14 (C) in clause (ii), by striking “December  
15 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2029”;  
16 and

17 (2) in paragraph (13), in the matter preceding  
18 subparagraph (A), by striking “January 31, 2024”  
19 and inserting “January 31, 2030”.

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS.—  
21 Section 602(b)(4) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of  
22 2009 ( 8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8;) is amend-  
23 ed by adding at the end the following:

24 “(D) VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS.—Notwith-  
25 standing section 222(e) of the Immigration and

1           Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(e)), an applica-  
2           tion for an immigrant visa under this section  
3           may be signed by the applicant through a vir-  
4           tual video meeting before a consular officer and  
5           verified by the oath of the applicant adminis-  
6           tered by the consular officer during a virtual  
7           video meeting.”.

8           (e) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Paragraph (12) of sec-  
9           tion 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009  
10          (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is amended is  
11          amended to read as follows:

12           “(12) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

13           “(A) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
14           than 120 days after the date of enactment of  
15           the Afghan Adjustment Act and every 90 days  
16           thereafter, the Secretary of State and the Sec-  
17           retary of Homeland Security, in consultation  
18           with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to  
19           the appropriate committees of Congress a re-  
20           port that includes the following:

21           “(i) For the preceding quarter—

22           “(I) a description of improve-  
23           ments made to the processing of spe-  
24           cial immigrant visas and refugee proc-

1           essing for citizens and nationals of Af-  
2           ghanistan;

3           “(II) the number of new Afghan  
4           referrals to the United States Refugee  
5           Admissions Program, disaggregated  
6           by referring entity;

7           “(III) the number of interviews  
8           of Afghans conducted by U.S. Citizen-  
9           ship and Immigration Services,  
10          disaggregated by the country in which  
11          such interviews took place;

12          “(IV) the number of approvals  
13          and the number of denials of refugee  
14          status requests for Afghans;

15          “(V) the number of total admis-  
16          sions to the United States of Afghan  
17          refugees;

18          “(VI) number of such admis-  
19          sions, disaggregated by whether the  
20          refugees come from within, or outside  
21          of, Afghanistan;

22          “(VII) the average processing  
23          time for citizens and nationals of Af-  
24          ghanistan who are applicants;



1 “(VIII) the number of such cases  
2 processed within such average proc-  
3 essing time; and

4 “(IX) the number of denials  
5 issued with respect to applications by  
6 citizens and nationals of Afghanistan.

7 “(ii) The number of applications by  
8 citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for  
9 refugee referrals pending as of the date of  
10 submission of the report.

11 “(iii) A description of the efficiency  
12 improvements made in the process by  
13 which applications for special immigrant  
14 visas under this subsection are processed,  
15 including information described in clauses  
16 (iii) through (viii) of paragraph (11)(B).

17 “(B) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report re-  
18 quired by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted  
19 in unclassified form but may contain a classi-  
20 fied annex.

21 “(C) PUBLIC POSTING.—The Secretary of  
22 State shall publish on the website of the De-  
23 partment of State the unclassified portion of  
24 each report submitted under subparagraph  
25 (A).”.

1 (f) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

2 (1) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary,  
3 the Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary of State  
4 may not charge any fee in connection with an appli-  
5 cation for, or issuance of, a special immigrant visa  
6 or special immigrant status under—

7 (A) section 602 of the Afghan Allies Pro-  
8 tection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public  
9 Law 111–8);

10 (B) section 1059 of the National Defense  
11 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8  
12 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 109–163); or

13 (C) subparagraph (N) of section  
14 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality  
15 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by sub-  
16 section (a)(1).

17 (2) DEFENSE PERSONNEL.—Any limitation in  
18 law with respect to the number of personnel within  
19 the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military  
20 departments, or a Defense Agency (as defined in  
21 section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) shall  
22 not apply to personnel employed for the primary  
23 purpose of carrying out this section.

24 (3) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of  
25 State, in consultation with the head of any other ap-

1       appropriate Federal agency, shall make a reasonable  
2       effort to provide an alien who is seeking status as  
3       a special immigrant under subparagraph (N) of sec-  
4       tion 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality  
5       Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by subsection  
6       (a)(1), protection or to immediately remove such  
7       alien from Afghanistan, if possible.

8               (4) RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT.—A citizen or  
9       national of Afghanistan who is admitted to the  
10      United States under this section or an amendment  
11      made by this section shall be eligible for resettlement  
12      assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits  
13      available to refugees admitted under section 207 of  
14      the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
15      1157) to the same extent, and for the same periods  
16      of time, as such refugees.

17   **SEC. 8. SUPPORT FOR ALLIES SEEKING RESETTLEMENT IN**  
18               **THE UNITED STATES.**

19      Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during  
20      the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this  
21      Act and ending on the date that is 10 years thereafter,  
22      the Secretary and the Secretary of State may waive any  
23      fee or surcharge or exempt individuals from the payment  
24      of any fee or surcharge collected by the Department of  
25      Homeland Security and the Department of State, respec-

tively, in connection with a petition or application for, or issuance of, an immigrant visa to a national of Afghanistan under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) or 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i) and 1153(a)), respectively.

**SEC. 9. REPORTING.**

(a) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Beginning on January 1, 2028, not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes, for the preceding quarter—

(1) the number of individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 4, disaggregated by the number of such individuals for whom conditions have been removed;

(2) the number of individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 4 who have been determined to be ineligible for removal of conditions (and the reasons for such determination); and

(3) the number of individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 4 for whom no such determination has been made (and the reasons for the lack of such determination).

1 (b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than an-  
2 nually, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney  
3 General, shall submit to the appropriate committees of  
4 Congress a report that includes for the preceding year,  
5 with respect to individuals granted conditional permanent  
6 resident status under section 4—

7 (1) the number of such individuals who are  
8 placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of  
9 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
10 1229a) charged with a ground of deportability under  
11 subsection (a)(2) of section 237 of that Act (8  
12 U.S.C. 1227), disaggregated by each applicable  
13 ground under that subsection;

14 (2) the number of such individuals who are  
15 placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of  
16 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
17 1229a) charged with a ground of deportability under  
18 subsection (a)(3) of section 237 of that Act (8  
19 U.S.C. 1227), disaggregated by each applicable  
20 ground under that subsection;

21 (3) the number of final orders of removal issued  
22 pursuant to proceedings described in paragraphs (1)  
23 and (2), disaggregated by each applicable ground of  
24 deportability;

1           (4) the number of such individuals for whom  
2           such proceedings are pending, disaggregated by each  
3           applicable ground of deportability; and

4           (5) a review of the available options for removal  
5           from the United States, including any changes in  
6           the feasibility of such options during the preceding  
7           year.

8   **SEC. 10. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

9           Except as expressly described in this Act or an  
10          amendment made by this Act, nothing in this Act or an  
11          amendment made by this Act may be construed to modify,  
12          expand, or limit any law or authority to process or admit  
13          refugees under section 207 of the Immigration and Na-  
14          tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) or applicants for an immi-  
15          grant visa under the immigration laws.