

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119–**

**8**

**OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER-MEEKS OF IOWA**

At the end of title XVII, add the following:

1   **Subtitle \_\_\_\_\_—Afghan Adjustment**  
2                                   **Act**

3   **SEC. 17\_\_1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This subtitle may be cited as the “Afghan Adjust-  
5   ment Act”.

6   **SEC. 17\_\_2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this subtitle:

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

11                (A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
12                Senate;

13                (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
14                the Senate;

15                (C) the Committee on Armed Services of  
16                the Senate;

17                (D) the Committee on Appropriations of  
18                the Senate;

1 (E) the Committee on Homeland Security  
2 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

3 (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
4 House of Representatives;

5 (G) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
6 the House of Representatives;

7 (H) the Committee on Armed Services of  
8 the House of Representatives;

9 (I) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
10 House of Representatives; and

11 (J) the Committee on Homeland Security  
12 of the House of Representatives.

13 (2) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigra-  
14 tion laws” has the meaning given such term in sec-  
15 tion 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality  
16 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

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

19 (4) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.—The term  
20 “special immigrant status” means special immigrant  
21 status provided under—

22 (A) the Afghan Allies Protection Act of  
23 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8);

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

4 (C) subparagraph (N) of section  
5 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality  
6 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by sec-  
7 tion 17\_\_7(a).

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

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

12 (B) a case in processing in the United  
13 States Refugee Admissions Program for an in-  
14 dividual who has received a Priority 1 or Pri-  
15 ority 2 referral to such program.

16 (6) UNITED STATES REFUGEE ADMISSIONS  
17 PROGRAM.—The term “United States Refugee Ad-  
18 missions Program” means the program to resettle  
19 refugees in the United States pursuant to the au-  
20 thorities provided in sections 101(a)(42), 207, and  
21 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
22 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42), 1157, and 1522).

1   **SEC. 17\_3. SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN ALLIES OUTSIDE THE**  
2                   **UNITED STATES.**

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

10          (b) **OFFICE IN LIEU OF EMBASSY.**—During the pe-  
11 riod in which there is no operational United States em-  
12 bassy in Afghanistan, the Secretary of State shall des-  
13 ignate an appropriate office within the Department of  
14 State—

15               (1) to review specified applications submitted by  
16 nationals of Afghanistan residing in Afghanistan, in-  
17 cluding by conducting any required interviews;

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

21               (3) to provide services to such nationals, to the  
22 greatest extent practicable, that would normally be  
23 provided by an embassy; and

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

1 **SEC. 17\_4. CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS**  
2 **FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STA-  
5 TUS.—The term “conditional permanent resident  
6 status” means conditional permanent resident status  
7 under section 216 and 216A of the Immigration and  
8 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186a, 1186b), subject to  
9 the provisions of this section.

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

12 (A) is present in the United States;

13 (B) is a citizen or national of Afghanistan  
14 or, in the case of an alien having no nationality,  
15 is a person who last habitually resided in Af-  
16 ghanistan;

17 (C) has not been granted permanent resi-  
18 dent status;

19 (D)(i) was inspected and admitted to the  
20 United States on or before the date of the en-  
21 actment of this subtitle; or

22 (ii) was paroled into the United States  
23 during the period beginning on July 30, 2021,  
24 and ending on the date of the enactment of this  
25 subtitle, provided that—

1 (I) such parole has not been termi-  
2 nated by the Secretary upon written notice;  
3 and

4 (II) the alien did not enter the United  
5 States at a location between ports of entry  
6 along the southwest land border; and

7 (E) is admissible to the United States as  
8 an immigrant under the applicable immigration  
9 laws, including eligibility for waivers of grounds  
10 of inadmissibility to the extent provided by the  
11 immigration laws and the terms of this section.

12 (b) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS  
13 FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—

14 (1) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO CONDITIONAL  
15 PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—Beginning on the  
16 date of the enactment of this subtitle, the Sec-  
17 retary—

18 (A) may adjust the status of each eligible  
19 individual to that of an alien lawfully admitted  
20 for permanent residence status, subject to the  
21 procedures established by the Secretary to de-  
22 termine eligibility for conditional permanent  
23 resident status; and

24 (B) shall create for each eligible individual  
25 who is granted adjustment of status under this

1           section a record of admission to such status as  
2           of the date on which the eligible individual was  
3           initially inspected and admitted or paroled into  
4           the United States, or July 30, 2021, whichever  
5           is later,

6           unless the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case  
7           basis, that such individual is inadmissible under any  
8           ground of inadmissibility under section 212 (other  
9           than subsection (a)(4)) of the Immigration and Na-  
10          tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) and is not eligible for  
11          a waiver of such grounds of inadmissibility as pro-  
12          vided by this subtitle or by the immigration laws.

13           (2) **CONDITIONAL BASIS.**—An individual who  
14          obtains lawful permanent resident status under this  
15          section shall be considered, at the time of obtaining  
16          the status of an alien lawfully admitted for perma-  
17          nent residence, to have obtained such status on a  
18          conditional basis subject to the provisions of this  
19          section.

20           (c) **CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS**  
21 **DESCRIBED.**—

22           (1) **ASSESSMENT.**—

23           (A) **IN GENERAL.**—Before granting condi-  
24          tional permanent resident status to an eligible  
25          individual under subsection (b)(1), the Sec-

1           retary shall conduct an assessment with respect  
2           to the eligible individual, which shall be equiva-  
3           lent in rigor to the assessment conducted with  
4           respect to refugees admitted to the United  
5           States through the United States Refugee Ad-  
6           missions Program, for the purpose of deter-  
7           mining whether the eligible individual is inad-  
8           missible under any ground of inadmissibility  
9           under section 212 (other than subsection  
10          (a)(4)) of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
11          (8 U.S.C. 1182) and is not eligible for a waiver  
12          of such grounds of inadmissibility under para-  
13          graph (2)(C) or the immigration laws.

14                 (B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting an as-  
15                 sessment under subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
16                 retary may consult with the head of any other  
17                 relevant agency and review the holdings of any  
18                 such agency.

19                 (2) REMOVAL OF CONDITIONS.—

20                 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than the  
21                 date described in subparagraph (B), the Sec-  
22                 retary may remove the conditional basis of the  
23                 status of an individual granted conditional per-  
24                 manent resident status under this section un-  
25                 less the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case

1 basis, that such individual is inadmissible under  
2 any ground of inadmissibility under paragraph  
3 (2) or (3) of section 212(a) of the Immigration  
4 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)), and is  
5 not eligible for a waiver of such grounds of in-  
6 admissibility under subparagraph (C) or the im-  
7 migration laws.

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

10 (i) the date that is 4 years after the  
11 date on which the individual was admitted  
12 or paroled into the United States; or

13 (ii) July 1, 2027.

14 (C) WAIVER.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided  
16 in clause (ii), to determine eligibility for  
17 conditional permanent resident status  
18 under subsection (b) or removal of condi-  
19 tions under this paragraph, the Secretary  
20 may waive the application of the grounds  
21 of inadmissibility under section 212(a) of  
22 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
23 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian pur-  
24 poses or to ensure family unity.

1 (ii) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may  
2 not waive under clause (i) the application  
3 of subparagraphs (C) through (E) and (G)  
4 through (H) of paragraph (2), or para-  
5 graph (3), of section 212(a) of the Immi-  
6 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
7 1182(a)).

8 (iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Noth-  
9 ing in this subparagraph may be construed  
10 to expand or limit any other waiver author-  
11 ity applicable under the immigration laws  
12 to an individual who is otherwise eligible  
13 for adjustment of status.

14 (D) TIMELINE.—Not later than 180 days  
15 after the date described in subparagraph (B),  
16 the Secretary shall, to the greatest extent prac-  
17 ticable, remove conditions as to all individuals  
18 granted conditional permanent resident status  
19 under this section who are eligible for removal  
20 of conditions.

21 (3) TREATMENT OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF  
22 STATUS PERIOD FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZA-  
23 TION.—An individual in conditional permanent resi-  
24 dent status under this section shall be considered—

1 (A) to have been admitted to the United  
2 States as an alien lawfully admitted for perma-  
3 nent residence; and

4 (B) to be present in the United States as  
5 an alien lawfully admitted to the United States  
6 for permanent residence, provided that, no alien  
7 granted conditional permanent resident status  
8 shall be naturalized unless the alien's conditions  
9 have been removed under this section.

10 (d) TERMINATION OF CONDITIONAL PERMANENT  
11 RESIDENT STATUS.—Conditional permanent resident sta-  
12 tus shall terminate on, as applicable—

13 (1) the date on which the Secretary removes the  
14 conditions pursuant to subsection (c)(2), on which  
15 date the alien shall be lawfully admitted for perma-  
16 nent residence without conditions;

17 (2) the date on which the Secretary determines  
18 that the alien was not an eligible individual under  
19 subsection (a)(2) as of the date that such conditional  
20 permanent resident status was granted, on which  
21 date of the Secretary's determination the alien shall  
22 no longer be an alien lawfully admitted for perma-  
23 nent residence; or

24 (3) the date on which the Secretary determines  
25 pursuant to subsection (c)(2) that the alien is not el-

1       igible for removal of conditions, on which date the  
2       alien shall no longer be an alien lawfully admitted  
3       for permanent residence.

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

13      (f) PAROLE EXPIRATION TOLLED.—The expiration  
14      date of a period of parole shall not apply to an individual  
15      under consideration for conditional permanent resident  
16      status under this section, until such time as the Secretary  
17      has determined whether to issue conditional permanent  
18      resident status.

19      (g) PERIODIC NONADVERSARIAL MEETINGS.—

20           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
21      after the date on which an individual is conferred  
22      conditional permanent resident status under this  
23      section, and periodically thereafter, the Office of  
24      Refugee Resettlement shall make available opportu-  
25      nities for the individual to participate in a nonadver-

1       sarial meeting, during which an official of the Office  
2       of Refugee Resettlement (or an agency funded by  
3       the Office) shall—

4               (A) on request by the individual, assist the  
5       individual in a referral or application for appli-  
6       cable benefits administered by the Department  
7       of Health and Human Services and completing  
8       any applicable paperwork; and

9               (B) answer any questions regarding eligi-  
10      bility for other benefits administered by the  
11      United States Government.

12      (2) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not  
13      later than 7 days before the date on which a meeting  
14      under paragraph (1) is scheduled to occur, the Sec-  
15      retary of Health and Human Services shall provide  
16      notice to the individual that includes the date of the  
17      scheduled meeting and a description of the process  
18      for rescheduling the meeting.

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

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

24              (B) interpretation and translation services  
25      are provided to individuals granted conditional

1 permanent resident status under this section  
2 who have limited English proficiency.

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

5 (A) to prevent an individual from electing  
6 to have counsel present during a meeting under  
7 paragraph (1); or

8 (B) in the event that an individual declines  
9 to participate in such a meeting, to affect the  
10 individual's conditional permanent resident sta-  
11 tus under this section or eligibility to have con-  
12 ditions removed in accordance with this section.

13 (h) CONSIDERATION.—Except with respect to an ap-  
14 plication for naturalization and the benefits described in  
15 subsection (p), an individual in conditional permanent  
16 resident status under this section shall be considered to  
17 be an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence for  
18 purposes of the adjudication of an application or petition  
19 for a benefit or the receipt of a benefit.

20 (i) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later  
21 than 90 days after the date on which the status of an  
22 individual is adjusted to that of conditional permanent  
23 resident status under this section, the Secretary shall pro-  
24 vide notice to such individual with respect to the provisions  
25 of this section, including subsection (c)(1) (relating to the

1 conduct of assessments) and subsection (g) (relating to  
2 periodic nonadversarial meetings).

3 (j) APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION.—The Sec-  
4 retary shall establish procedures whereby an individual  
5 who would otherwise be eligible to apply for naturalization  
6 but for having conditional permanent resident status, may  
7 be considered for naturalization coincident with removal  
8 of conditions under subsection (c)(2).

9 (k) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS DATE.—

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

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

17 (A) is described in subparagraph (A), (B),  
18 or (D) of subsection (a)(2), and whose status  
19 was adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admit-  
20 ted for permanent residence on or after July  
21 30, 2021, but on or before the date of the en-  
22 actment of this subtitle; or

23 (B) is an eligible individual whose status is  
24 then adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admit-  
25 ted for permanent residence after the date of

1 the enactment of this subtitle under any provi-  
2 sion of the immigration laws other than this  
3 section.

4 (l) PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS OF UNACCOM-  
5 PANIED CHILDREN.—A parent or legal guardian of an eli-  
6 gible individual shall be eligible to obtain status as an alien  
7 lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional  
8 basis if—

9 (1) the eligible individual—

10 (A) was under 18 years of age on the date  
11 on which the eligible individual was granted  
12 conditional permanent resident status under  
13 this section; and

14 (B) was not accompanied by at least one  
15 parent or guardian on the date the eligible indi-  
16 vidual was admitted or paroled into the United  
17 States; and

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

21 (m) GUIDANCE.—

22 (1) INTERIM GUIDANCE.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120  
24 days after the date of the enactment of this

1 subtitle, the Secretary shall issue guidance im-  
2 plementing this section.

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

6 (i) may be published on the internet  
7 website of the Department of Homeland  
8 Security; and

9 (ii) shall be effective on an interim  
10 basis immediately upon such publication  
11 but may be subject to change and revision  
12 after notice and an opportunity for public  
13 comment.

14 (2) FINAL GUIDANCE.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
16 days after the date of issuance of guidance  
17 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall final-  
18 ize the guidance implementing this section.

19 (B) EXEMPTION FROM THE ADMINISTRA-  
20 TIVE PROCEDURES ACT.—Chapter 5 of title 5,  
21 United States Code (commonly known as the  
22 “Administrative Procedures Act”), or any other  
23 law relating to rulemaking or information col-  
24 lection, shall not apply to the guidance issued  
25 under this paragraph.

1 (n) ASYLUM CLAIMS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the adju-  
3 dication of an application for asylum submitted by  
4 an eligible individual, section 2502(c) of the Extend-  
5 ing Government Funding and Delivering Emergency  
6 Assistance Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law  
7 117–43) shall not apply.

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

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

16 (1) a document evidencing status as an alien  
17 lawfully admitted for permanent residence or condi-  
18 tional permanent resident status; or

19 (2) an employment authorization document.

20 (p) ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
22 provision of law—

23 (A) an individual described in subsection  
24 (a) of section 2502 of the Afghanistan Supple-  
25 mental Appropriations Act, 2022 (8 U.S.C.

1           1101 note; Public Law 117–43) shall retain his  
2           or her eligibility for the benefits and services  
3           described in subsection (b) of such section if the  
4           individual is under consideration for, or is  
5           granted, adjustment of status under this sec-  
6           tion; and

7           (B) such benefits and services shall remain  
8           available to the individual to the same extent  
9           and for the same periods of time as such bene-  
10          fits and services are otherwise available to refu-  
11          gees who acquire such status.

12          (2) EXCEPTION FROM 5-YEAR LIMITED ELIGI-  
13          BILITY FOR MEANS-TESTED PUBLIC BENEFITS.—  
14          Section 403(b)(1) of the Personal Responsibility and  
15          Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8  
16          U.S.C. 1613(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end  
17          the following:

18                 “(F) An alien whose status is adjusted  
19                 under section 17\_\_4 of the Afghan Adjustment  
20                 Act to that of an alien lawfully admitted for  
21                 permanent residence or to that of an alien law-  
22                 fully admitted for permanent residence on a  
23                 conditional basis.”.

24          (q) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
25          tion may be construed to preclude an eligible individual

1 from applying for or receiving any immigration benefit to  
2 which the individual is otherwise entitled.

3 (r) EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

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

10 (2) SPOUSE AND CHILDREN BENEFICIARIES.—

11 A spouse or child who is the beneficiary of an immi-  
12 grant petition under section 204 of the Immigration  
13 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) filed by an  
14 alien who has been granted conditional permanent  
15 resident status or lawful permanent resident status  
16 under this section, seeking classification of the  
17 spouse or child under section 203(a)(2)(A) of that  
18 Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)(2)(A)) shall not be subject to  
19 the numerical limitations under sections 201, 202,  
20 and 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
21 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1153).

22 (s) EFFECT ON OTHER APPLICATIONS.—Notwith-  
23 standing any other provision of law, in the interest of effi-  
24 ciency, the Secretary may pause consideration of any ap-  
25 plication or request for an immigration benefit pending

1 adjudication so as to prioritize consideration of adjust-  
2 ment of status to an alien lawfully admitted for permanent  
3 residence on a conditional basis under this section.

4 (t) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
5 is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General,  
6 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Sec-  
7 retary, and the Secretary of State such sums as are nec-  
8 essary to carry out this section.

9 **SEC. 17\_5. REFUGEE PROCESSES FOR CERTAIN AT-RISK**  
10 **AFGHAN ALLIES.**

11 (a) DEFINITION OF AFGHAN ALLY.—

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

17 (A) was—

18 (i) a member of—

19 (I) the special operations forces  
20 of the Afghanistan National Defense  
21 and Security Forces;

22 (II) the Afghanistan National  
23 Army Special Operations Command;

24 (III) the Afghan Air Force; or

1 (IV) the Special Mission Wing of  
2 Afghanistan;

3 (ii) a female member of any other en-  
4 tity of the Afghanistan National Defense  
5 and Security Forces, including—

6 (I) a cadet or instructor at the  
7 Afghanistan National Defense Univer-  
8 sity; and

9 (II) a civilian employee of the  
10 Ministry of Defense or the Ministry of  
11 Interior Affairs;

12 (iii) an individual associated with  
13 former Afghan military and police human  
14 intelligence activities, including operators  
15 and Department of Defense sources;

16 (iv) an individual associated with  
17 former Afghan military counterintelligence,  
18 counterterrorism, or counternarcotics;

19 (v) an individual associated with the  
20 former Afghan Ministry of Defense, Min-  
21 istry of Interior Affairs, or court system,  
22 and who was involved in the investigation,  
23 prosecution or detention of combatants or  
24 members of the Taliban or criminal net-  
25 works affiliated with the Taliban;

1 (vi) an individual employed in the  
2 former justice sector in Afghanistan as a  
3 judge, prosecutor, or investigator who was  
4 engaged in rule of law activities for which  
5 the United States provided funding or  
6 training; or

7 (vii) a senior military officer, senior  
8 enlisted personnel, or civilian official who  
9 served on the staff of the former Ministry  
10 of Defense or the former Ministry of Inte-  
11 rior Affairs of Afghanistan; or

12 (B) provided service to an entity or organi-  
13 zation described in subparagraph (A) for not  
14 less than 1 year during the period beginning on  
15 December 22, 2001, and ending on September  
16 1, 2021, and did so in support of the United  
17 States mission in Afghanistan.

18 (2) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section,  
19 the Afghanistan National Defense and Security  
20 Forces includes members of the security forces  
21 under the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of  
22 Interior Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghani-  
23 stan, including the Afghanistan National Army, the  
24 Afghan Air Force, the Afghanistan National Police,  
25 and any other entity designated by the Secretary of

1 Defense as part of the Afghanistan National De-  
2 fense and Security Forces during the relevant period  
3 of service of the applicant concerned.

4 (b) REFUGEE STATUS FOR AFGHAN ALLIES.—

5 (1) DESIGNATION AS REFUGEES OF SPECIAL  
6 HUMANITARIAN CONCERN.—Afghan allies shall be  
7 considered refugees of special humanitarian concern  
8 under section 207 of the Immigration and Nation-  
9 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157), until the later of 10 years  
10 after the date of enactment of this subtitle or upon  
11 determination by the Secretary of State, in consulta-  
12 tion with the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-  
13 retary, that such designation is no longer in the in-  
14 terest of the United States.

15 (2) THIRD COUNTRY PRESENCE NOT RE-  
16 QUIRED.—Notwithstanding section 101(a)(42) of the  
17 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
18 1101(a)(42)), the Secretary of State and the Sec-  
19 retary shall, to the greatest extent possible, conduct  
20 remote refugee processing for an Afghan ally located  
21 in Afghanistan.

22 (c) AFGHAN ALLIES REFERRAL PROGRAM.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
24 after the date of the enactment of this subtitle—

1 (A) the Secretary of Defense, in consulta-  
2 tion with the Secretary of State, shall establish  
3 a process by which an individual may apply to  
4 the Secretary of Defense for classification as an  
5 Afghan ally and request a referral to the United  
6 States Refugee Admissions Program; and

7 (B) the head of any appropriate depart-  
8 ment or agency that conducted operations in  
9 Afghanistan during the period beginning on De-  
10 cember 22, 2001, and ending on September 1,  
11 2021, in consultation with the Secretary of  
12 State, may establish a process by which an indi-  
13 vidual may apply to the head of the appropriate  
14 department or agency for classification as an  
15 Afghan ally and request a referral to the United  
16 States Refugee Admissions Program.

17 (2) APPLICATION SYSTEM.—

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

20 (i) include the development and main-  
21 tenance of a secure online portal through  
22 which applicants may provide information  
23 verifying their status as Afghan allies and  
24 upload supporting documentation; and

25 (ii) allow—

1 (I) an applicant to submit his or  
2 her own application;

3 (II) a designee of an applicant to  
4 submit an application on behalf of the  
5 applicant; and

6 (III) in the case of an applicant  
7 who is outside the United States, the  
8 submission of an application regard-  
9 less of where the applicant is located.

10 (B) USE BY OTHER AGENCIES.—The Sec-  
11 retary of Defense—

12 (i) may enter into arrangements with  
13 the head of any other appropriate depart-  
14 ment or agency so as to allow the applica-  
15 tion system established under subpara-  
16 graph (A) to be used by such department  
17 or agency; and

18 (ii) shall notify the Secretary of State  
19 of any such arrangement.

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

24 (A) review—

1 (i) the service record of the applicant,  
2 if available;

3 (ii) if the applicant provides a service  
4 record or other supporting documentation,  
5 any information that helps verify the serv-  
6 ice record concerned, including information  
7 or an attestation provided by any current  
8 or former official of the department or  
9 agency who has personal knowledge of the  
10 eligibility of the applicant for such classi-  
11 fication and referral; and

12 (iii) the data holdings of the depart-  
13 ment or agency and other cooperating  
14 interagency partners, including as applica-  
15 ble biographic and biometric records, iris  
16 scans, fingerprints, voice biometric infor-  
17 mation, hand geometry biometrics, other  
18 identifiable information, and any other in-  
19 formation related to the applicant, includ-  
20 ing relevant derogatory information; and

21 (B)(i) in a case in which the head of the  
22 department or agency determines that the ap-  
23 plicant is an Afghan ally without significant de-  
24 rogatory information, refer the Afghan ally to

1 the United States Refugee Admissions Program  
2 as a refugee; and

3 (ii) include with such referral—

4 (I) any service record concerned,  
5 if available;

6 (II) if the applicant provides a  
7 service record, any information that  
8 helps verify the service record con-  
9 cerned; and

10 (III) any biometrics for the appli-  
11 cant.

12 (4) REVIEW PROCESS FOR DENIAL OF REQUEST  
13 FOR REFERRAL.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an appli-  
15 cant with respect to whom the head of the ap-  
16 propriate department or agency denies a re-  
17 quest for classification and referral based on a  
18 determination that the applicant is not an Af-  
19 ghan ally or based on derogatory information—

20 (i) the head of the department or  
21 agency shall provide the applicant with a  
22 written notice of the denial that provides,  
23 to the maximum extent practicable, a de-  
24 scription of the basis for the denial, includ-  
25 ing the facts and inferences, or evidentiary

1 gaps, underlying the individual determina-  
2 tion; and

3 (ii) the applicant shall be provided an  
4 opportunity to submit not more than 1  
5 written appeal to the head of the depart-  
6 ment or agency for each such denial.

7 (B) DEADLINE FOR APPEAL.—An appeal  
8 under clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be  
9 submitted—

10 (i) not more than 120 days after the  
11 date on which the applicant concerned re-  
12 ceives notice under clause (i) of that sub-  
13 paragraph; or

14 (ii) on any date thereafter, at the dis-  
15 cretion of the head of the appropriate de-  
16 partment or agency.

17 (C) REQUEST TO REOPEN.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—An applicant who  
19 receives a denial under subparagraph (A)  
20 may submit a request to reopen a request  
21 for classification and referral under the  
22 process established under paragraph (1) so  
23 that the applicant may provide additional  
24 information, clarify existing information,  
25 or explain any unfavorable information.

1 (ii) LIMITATION.—After considering 1  
2 such request to reopen from an applicant,  
3 the head of the appropriate department or  
4 agency may deny subsequent requests to  
5 reopen submitted by the same applicant.

6 (5) FORM AND CONTENT OF REFERRAL.—To  
7 the extent practicable, the head of the appropriate  
8 department or agency shall ensure that referrals  
9 made under this subsection—

10 (A) conform to requirements established by  
11 the Secretary of State for form and content;  
12 and

13 (B) are complete and include sufficient  
14 contact information, supporting documentation,  
15 and any other material the Secretary of State  
16 or the Secretary consider necessary or helpful  
17 in determining whether an applicant is entitled  
18 to refugee status.

19 (6) TERMINATION.—The application process  
20 and referral system under this subsection shall ter-  
21minate upon the later of 1 year before the termi-  
22nation of the designation under subsection (b)(1) or  
23on the date of a joint determination by the Secretary  
24of State and the Secretary of Defense, in consulta-

1       tion with the Secretary, that such termination is in  
2       the national interest of the United States.

3       (d) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

4           (1) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary,  
5       the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, or  
6       the head of any appropriate department or agency  
7       referring Afghan allies under this section may not  
8       charge any fee in connection with a request for a  
9       classification and referral as a refugee under this  
10      section.

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

18          (3) REPRESENTATION.—An alien applying for  
19      admission to the United States under this section  
20      may be represented during the application process,  
21      including at relevant interviews and examinations,  
22      by an attorney or other accredited representative.  
23      Such representation shall not be at the expense of  
24      the United States Government.

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

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

13          (6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
14      There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
15      as necessary for each of fiscal years 2025 through  
16      2034 to carry out this section.

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

20      **SEC. 17\_6. IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND OVERSIGHT OF**  
21                      **REFUGEE AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT PROC-**  
22                      **ESSING.**

23          (a) ACCEPTANCE OF FINGERPRINT CARDS AND SUB-  
24      MISSIONS OF BIOMETRICS.—In addition to the methods  
25      authorized under the heading relating to the Immigration

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

17 (1) prepared by international or nongovern-  
18 mental organizations under an appropriate agree-  
19 ment with the Secretary or the Secretary of State;

20 (2) prepared by employees or contractors of the  
21 Department of Homeland Security or the Depart-  
22 ment of State; or

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

25 (b) STAFFING.—

1           (1) VETTING.—The Secretary of State, the Sec-  
2       retary, the Secretary of Defense, and any other  
3       agency authorized to carry out the vetting process  
4       under this subtitle, shall each ensure sufficient staff-  
5       ing, and request the resources necessary, to effi-  
6       ciently and adequately carry out the vetting of appli-  
7       cants for—

8           (A) referral to the United States Refugee  
9       Admissions Program, consistent with the deter-  
10      minations established under section 207 of the  
11      Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
12      1157); and

13      (B) special immigrant status.

14      (2) REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.—The Secretary  
15      of Health and Human Services shall ensure suffi-  
16      cient staffing to efficiently provide assistance under  
17      chapter 2 of title IV of the Immigration and Nation-  
18      ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1521 et seq.) to refugees reset-  
19      tled in the United States.

20      (c) REMOTE PROCESSING.—Notwithstanding any  
21      other provision of law, the Secretary of State and the Sec-  
22      retary shall employ remote processing capabilities for ref-  
23      ugee processing under section 207 of the Immigration and  
24      Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157), including secure digital  
25      file transfers, videoconferencing and teleconferencing ca-

1 pabilities, remote review of applications, remote inter-  
2 views, remote collection of signatures, waiver of the appli-  
3 cant's appearance or signature (other than a final appear-  
4 ance and verification by the oath of the applicant prior  
5 to or at the time of the individual's application for admis-  
6 sion to the United States), waiver of signature for individ-  
7 uals under 5 years old, and any other capability the Sec-  
8 retary of State and the Secretary consider appropriate, se-  
9 cure, and likely to reduce processing wait times at par-  
10 ticular facilities.

11 (d) MONTHLY ARRIVAL REPORTS.—With respect to  
12 monthly reports issued by the Secretary of State relating  
13 to United States Refugee Admissions Program arrivals,  
14 the Secretary of State shall report—

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

17 (2) the number of Afghan allies admitted as  
18 refugees.

19 (e) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON AFGHAN ALLY  
20 STRATEGY.—

21 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
22 after the date of the enactment of this subtitle, the  
23 President shall establish an Interagency Task Force  
24 on Afghan Ally Strategy (referred to in this section  
25 as the “Task Force”)—

1 (A) to develop and oversee the implementa-  
2 tion of the strategy and contingency plan de-  
3 scribed in subparagraph (A)(i) of paragraph  
4 (4); and

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

8 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall  
10 include—

11 (i) 1 or more representatives from  
12 each relevant Federal agency, as des-  
13 ignated by the head of the applicable rel-  
14 evant Federal agency; and

15 (ii) any other Federal Government of-  
16 ficial designated by the President.

17 (B) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCY DE-  
18 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term “relevant  
19 Federal agency” means—

20 (i) the Department of State;

21 (ii) the Department of Homeland Se-  
22 curity;

23 (iii) the Department of Defense;

24 (iv) the Department of Health and  
25 Human Services;

1 (v) the Department of Justice; and

2 (vi) the Office of the Director of Na-  
3 tional Intelligence.

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

6 (4) DUTIES.—

7 (A) REPORT.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
9 days after the date on which the Task  
10 Force is established, the Task Force, act-  
11 ing through the chair of the Task Force,  
12 shall submit a report to the appropriate  
13 committees of Congress that includes—

14 (I) a strategy for facilitating the  
15 resettlement of nationals of Afghani-  
16 stan outside the United States who,  
17 during the period beginning on Octo-  
18 ber 1, 2001, and ending on September  
19 1, 2021, directly and personally sup-  
20 ported the United States mission in  
21 Afghanistan, as determined by the  
22 Secretary of State in consultation  
23 with the Secretary of Defense; and

24 (II) a contingency plan for future  
25 emergency operations in foreign coun-

1 tries involving foreign nationals who  
2 have worked directly with the United  
3 States Government, including the  
4 Armed Forces of the United States  
5 and United States intelligence agen-  
6 cies.

7 (ii) ELEMENTS.—The report required  
8 under clause (i) shall include—

9 (I) the total number of nationals  
10 of Afghanistan who have pending  
11 specified applications, disaggregated  
12 by—

13 (aa) such nationals in Af-  
14 ghanistan and such nationals in  
15 a third country;

16 (bb) type of specified appli-  
17 cation; and

18 (cc) applications that are  
19 documentarily complete and ap-  
20 plications that are not  
21 documentarily complete;

22 (II) an estimate of the number of  
23 nationals of Afghanistan who may be  
24 eligible for special immigrant status  
25 or classification as an Afghan ally;

1 (III) with respect to the strategy  
2 required under subparagraph  
3 (A)(i)(I)—  
4 (aa) the estimated number  
5 of nationals of Afghanistan de-  
6 scribed in such subparagraph;  
7 (bb) a description of the  
8 process for safely resettling such  
9 nationals of Afghanistan;  
10 (cc) a plan for processing  
11 such nationals of Afghanistan for  
12 admission to the United States  
13 that—  
14 (AA) discusses the fea-  
15 sibility of remote processing  
16 for such nationals of Af-  
17 ghanistan residing in Af-  
18 ghanistan;  
19 (BB) includes any  
20 strategy for facilitating ref-  
21 ugee and consular proc-  
22 essing for such nationals of  
23 Afghanistan in third coun-  
24 tries, and the timelines for  
25 such processing;

1 (CC) includes a plan  
2 for conducting rigorous and  
3 efficient vetting of all such  
4 nationals of Afghanistan for  
5 processing;

6 (DD) discusses the  
7 availability and capacity of  
8 sites in third countries to  
9 process applications and  
10 conduct any required vetting  
11 for such nationals of Af-  
12 ghanistan, including the po-  
13 tential to establish addi-  
14 tional sites; and

15 (EE) includes a plan  
16 for providing updates and  
17 necessary information to af-  
18 fected individuals and rel-  
19 evant nongovernmental or-  
20 ganizations;

21 (dd) a description of consid-  
22 erations, including resource con-  
23 straints, security concerns, miss-  
24 ing or inaccurate information,  
25 and diplomatic considerations,

1 that limit the ability of the Sec-  
2 retary of State or the Secretary  
3 to increase the number of such  
4 nationals of Afghanistan who can  
5 be safely processed or resettled;

6 (ee) an identification of any  
7 resource or additional authority  
8 necessary to increase the number  
9 of such nationals of Afghanistan  
10 who can be processed or reset-  
11 tled;

12 (ff) an estimate of the cost  
13 to fully implement the strategy;  
14 and

15 (gg) any other matter the  
16 Task Force considers relevant to  
17 the implementation of the strat-  
18 egy;

19 (IV) with respect to the contin-  
20 gency plan required by clause  
21 (i)(II)—

22 (aa) a description of the  
23 standard practices for screening  
24 and vetting foreign nationals con-  
25 sidered to be eligible for resettle-

1                   ment in the United States, in-  
2                   cluding a strategy for vetting,  
3                   and maintaining the records of,  
4                   such foreign nationals who are  
5                   unable to provide identification  
6                   documents or biographic details  
7                   due to emergency circumstances;  
8                   (bb) a strategy for facili-  
9                   tating refugee or consular proc-  
10                  essing for such foreign nationals  
11                  in third countries;  
12                  (cc) clear guidance with re-  
13                  spect to which Federal agency  
14                  has the authority and responsi-  
15                  bility to coordinate Federal reset-  
16                  tlement efforts;  
17                  (dd) a description of any re-  
18                  source or additional authority  
19                  necessary to coordinate Federal  
20                  resettlement efforts, including  
21                  the need for a contingency fund;  
22                  and  
23                  (ee) any other matter the  
24                  Task Force considers relevant to

1 the implementation of the contin-  
2 gency plan; and

3 (V) a strategy for the efficient  
4 processing of all Afghan special immi-  
5 grant visa applications and appeals,  
6 including—

7 (aa) a review of current  
8 staffing levels and needs across  
9 all interagency offices and offi-  
10 cials engaged in the special immi-  
11 grant visa process;

12 (bb) an analysis of the ex-  
13 pected Chief of Mission approvals  
14 and denials of applications in the  
15 pipeline in order to project the  
16 expected number of visas nec-  
17 essary to provide special immi-  
18 grant status to all approved ap-  
19 plicants under this subtitle dur-  
20 ing the several years after the  
21 date of the enactment of this  
22 subtitle;

23 (cc) an assessment as to  
24 whether adequate guidelines exist  
25 for reconsidering or reopening

1 applications for special immi-  
2 grant visas in appropriate cir-  
3 cumstances and consistent with  
4 applicable laws; and

5 (dd) an assessment of the  
6 procedures throughout the special  
7 immigrant visa application proc-  
8 ess, including at the Portsmouth  
9 Consular Center, and the effec-  
10 tiveness of communication be-  
11 tween the Portsmouth Consular  
12 Center and applicants, including  
13 an identification of any area in  
14 which improvements to the effi-  
15 ciency of such procedures and  
16 communication may be made.

17 (iii) FORM.—The report required  
18 under clause (i) shall be submitted in un-  
19 classified form but may include a classified  
20 annex.

21 (B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days  
22 after submitting the report required by clause  
23 (i), the Task Force shall brief the appropriate  
24 committees of Congress on the contents of the  
25 report.

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

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

6           (B) the date of a determination by the  
7       Secretary of State, in consultation with the Sec-  
8       retary of Defense and the Secretary, that a task  
9       force is no longer necessary for the implementa-  
10      tion of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of para-  
11      graph (1); or

12          (C) the date that is 10 years after the date  
13      of the enactment of this subtitle.

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

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

19          “(4)(A) In the determination made under this sub-  
20      section for each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year  
21      1992), the President shall enumerate, with the respective  
22      number of refugees so determined, the number of aliens  
23      who were granted asylum in the previous year.

24          “(B) In making a determination under paragraph  
25      (1), the President shall consider the information in the

1 most recently published projected global resettlement  
2 needs report published by the United Nations High Com-  
3 missioner for Refugees.”;

4 (2) in subsection (e), by amending paragraph  
5 (2) to read as follows:

6 “(2) A description of the number and allocation  
7 of the refugees to be admitted, including the ex-  
8 pected allocation by region, and an analysis of the  
9 conditions within the countries from which they  
10 came.”; and

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

12 “(g) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON ADMISSIONS.—Not  
13 later than 30 days after the last day of each quarter begin-  
14 ning the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2025, the President  
15 shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and  
16 Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary,  
17 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate  
18 and the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee  
19 on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
20 of the House of Representatives a report that includes the  
21 following:

22 “(1) REFUGEES ADMITTED.—

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

1           “(B) The cumulative number of refugees  
2           admitted to the United States during the appli-  
3           cable fiscal year, as of the last day of the pre-  
4           ceding quarter.

5           “(C) The number of refugees expected to  
6           be admitted to the United States during the re-  
7           mainder of the applicable fiscal year.

8           “(D) The number of refugees from each  
9           region admitted to the United States during the  
10          preceding quarter.

11          “(2) REFUGEE APPLICANTS WITH PENDING SE-  
12          CURITY CHECKS.—

13               “(A) The number of aliens, by nationality,  
14               security check, and responsible vetting agency,  
15               for whom a National Vetting Center or other  
16               security check has been requested during the  
17               preceding quarter, and the number of aliens, by  
18               nationality, for whom the check was pending  
19               beyond 30 days.

20               “(B) The number of aliens, by nationality,  
21               security check, and responsible vetting agency,  
22               for whom a National Vetting Center or other  
23               security check has been pending for more than  
24               180 days.

25          “(3) CIRCUIT RIDES.—

1 “(A) For the preceding quarter—

2 “(i) the number of Refugee Corps of-  
3 ficers deployed on circuit rides and the  
4 overall number of Refugee Corps officers;

5 “(ii) the number of individuals inter-  
6 viewed—

7 “(I) on each circuit ride; and

8 “(II) at each circuit ride location;

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

10 “(iv) for each circuit ride, the dura-  
11 tion of the circuit ride.

12 “(B) For the subsequent 2 quarters—

13 “(i) the number of circuit rides  
14 planned; and

15 “(ii) the number of individuals  
16 planned to be interviewed.

17 “(4) PROCESSING.—

18 “(A) For refugees admitted to the United  
19 States during the preceding quarter, the aver-  
20 age number of days between—

21 “(i) the date on which an individual  
22 referred to the United States Government  
23 as a refugee applicant is interviewed by the  
24 Secretary of Homeland Security; and

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

3 “(B) For refugee applicants interviewed by  
4 the Secretary of Homeland Security in the pre-  
5 ceding quarter, the approval, denial, rec-  
6 ommended approval, recommended denial, and  
7 hold rates for the applications for admission of  
8 such individuals, disaggregated by nationality.”.

9 **SEC. 17\_7. SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN VULNERABLE AFGHANS**  
10 **RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT BY OR ON BE-**  
11 **HALF OF THE UNITED STATES.**

12 (a) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR CERTAIN REL-  
13 ATIVES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED  
14 FORCES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27) of the  
16 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
17 1101(a)(27)) is amended—

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

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

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

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

1 “(i) a member of the Armed Forces  
2 (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10,  
3 United States Code); or

4 “(ii) a veteran (as defined in section  
5 101 of title 38, United States Code).”.

6 (2) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

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

14 (B) CARRYOVER.—If the numerical limita-  
15 tion specified in subparagraph (A) is not  
16 reached during a given fiscal year, the numer-  
17 ical limitation specified in such subparagraph  
18 for the following fiscal year shall be increased  
19 by a number equal to the difference between—

20 (i) the numerical limitation specified  
21 in subparagraph (A) for the given fiscal  
22 year; and

23 (ii) the number of principal aliens pro-  
24 vided special immigrant visas under sub-  
25 paragraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the

1 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
2 1101(a)(27)) during the given fiscal year.

3 (C) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISAS.—The  
4 total number of aliens who may be provided  
5 special immigrant visas under subparagraph  
6 (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration  
7 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27))  
8 shall not exceed 10,000.

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

13 (i) commence on the date of the en-  
14 actment of this Act; and

15 (ii) terminate on the date on which all  
16 such visas are exhausted.

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

21 (1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

22 (A) by amending clause (ii) to read as fol-  
23 lows:

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

4 “(aa) by, or on behalf of, the  
5 United States Government; or

6 “(bb) by the International Secu-  
7 rity Assistance Force (or any suc-  
8 cessor name for such Force) in a ca-  
9 pacity that required the alien—

10 “(AA) while traveling off-  
11 base with United States military  
12 personnel stationed at the Inter-  
13 national Security Assistance  
14 Force (or any successor name for  
15 such Force), to serve as an inter-  
16 preter or translator for such  
17 United States military personnel;  
18 or

19 “(BB) to perform activities  
20 for the United States military  
21 personnel stationed at Inter-  
22 national Security Assistance  
23 Force (or any successor name for  
24 such Force); or

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

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

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

15 (3) in paragraph (14)(C), by striking “para-  
16 graph (2)(A)(ii)” and inserting “paragraph  
17 (2)(A)(ii)(I)”;

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

20 (c) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PRO-  
21 GRAM UNDER AFGHAN ALLIES PROTECTION ACT OF  
22 2009.—Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act  
23 of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is  
24 amended—

25 (1) in paragraph (3)(F)—

1 (A) in the subparagraph heading, by striking  
2 ing “FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2022” and  
3 inserting “FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2029”;

4 (B) in clause (i), by striking “December  
5 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2029”;  
6 and

7 (C) in clause (ii), by striking “December  
8 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2029”;  
9 and

10 (2) in paragraph (13), in the matter preceding  
11 subparagraph (A), by striking “January 31, 2024”  
12 and inserting “January 31, 2030”.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS.—  
14 Section 602(b)(4) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of  
15 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8;) is amend-  
16 ed by adding at the end the following:

17 “(D) VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS.—Notwith-  
18 standing section 222(e) of the Immigration and  
19 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(e)), an applica-  
20 tion for an immigrant visa under this section  
21 may be signed by the applicant through a vir-  
22 tual video meeting before a consular officer and  
23 verified by the oath of the applicant adminis-  
24 tered by the consular officer during a virtual  
25 video meeting.”.

1       (e) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Paragraph (12) of sec-  
2       tion 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009  
3       (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is amended is  
4       amended to read as follows:

5               “(12) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

6               “(A) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
7       than 120 days after the date of enactment of  
8       the Afghan Adjustment Act and every 90 days  
9       thereafter, the Secretary of State and the Sec-  
10      retary of Homeland Security, in consultation  
11      with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to  
12      the appropriate committees of Congress a re-  
13      port that includes the following:

14              “(i) For the preceding quarter—

15              “(I) a description of improve-  
16      ments made to the processing of spe-  
17      cial immigrant visas and refugee proc-  
18      essing for citizens and nationals of Af-  
19      ghanistan;

20              “(II) the number of new Afghan  
21      referrals to the United States Refugee  
22      Admissions Program, disaggregated  
23      by referring entity;

24              “(III) the number of interviews  
25      of Afghans conducted by U.S. Citizen-

1 ship and Immigration Services,  
2 disaggregated by the country in which  
3 such interviews took place;

4 “(IV) the number of approvals  
5 and the number of denials of refugee  
6 status requests for Afghans;

7 “(V) the number of total admis-  
8 sions to the United States of Afghan  
9 refugees;

10 “(VI) number of such admis-  
11 sions, disaggregated by whether the  
12 refugees come from within, or outside  
13 of, Afghanistan;

14 “(VII) the average processing  
15 time for citizens and nationals of Af-  
16 ghanistan who are applicants;

17 “(VIII) the number of such cases  
18 processed within such average proc-  
19 essing time; and

20 “(IX) the number of denials  
21 issued with respect to applications by  
22 citizens and nationals of Afghanistan.

23 “(ii) The number of applications by  
24 citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for

1                   refugee referrals pending as of the date of  
2                   submission of the report.

3                   “(iii) A description of the efficiency  
4                   improvements made in the process by  
5                   which applications for special immigrant  
6                   visas under this subsection are processed,  
7                   including information described in clauses  
8                   (iii) through (viii) of paragraph (11)(B).

9                   “(B) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report re-  
10                  quired by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted  
11                  in unclassified form but may contain a classi-  
12                  fied annex.

13                  “(C) PUBLIC POSTING.—The Secretary of  
14                  State shall publish on the website of the De-  
15                  partment of State the unclassified portion of  
16                  each report submitted under subparagraph  
17                  (A).”.

18                  (f) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

19                  (1) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary,  
20                  the Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary of State  
21                  may not charge any fee in connection with an appli-  
22                  cation for, or issuance of, a special immigrant visa  
23                  or special immigrant status under—

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

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

7 (C) subparagraph (N) of section  
8 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality  
9 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by sub-  
10 section (a)(1).

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

18 (3) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of  
19 State, in consultation with the head of any other ap-  
20 propriate Federal agency, shall make a reasonable  
21 effort to provide an alien who is seeking status as  
22 a special immigrant under subparagraph (N) of sec-  
23 tion 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality  
24 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by subsection

1 (a)(1), protection or to immediately remove such  
2 alien from Afghanistan, if possible.

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

12 **SEC. 17\_8. SUPPORT FOR ALLIES SEEKING RESETTLE-**  
13 **MENT IN THE UNITED STATES.**

14 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during  
15 the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this  
16 Act and ending on the date that is 10 years thereafter,  
17 the Secretary and the Secretary of State may waive any  
18 fee or surcharge or exempt individuals from the payment  
19 of any fee or surcharge collected by the Department of  
20 Homeland Security and the Department of State, respec-  
21 tively, in connection with a petition or application for, or  
22 issuance of, an immigrant visa to a national of Afghani-  
23 stan under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) or 203(a) of the Immi-  
24 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i)  
25 and 1153(a)), respectively.

1 **SEC. 17\_\_9. REPORTING.**

2 (a) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Beginning on January  
3 1, 2028, not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary  
4 shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-  
5 ate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of  
6 Representatives a report that includes, for the preceding  
7 quarter—

8 (1) the number of individuals granted condi-  
9 tional permanent resident status under section  
10 17\_\_4, disaggregated by the number of such individ-  
11 uals for whom conditions have been removed;

12 (2) the number of individuals granted condi-  
13 tional permanent resident status under section  
14 17\_\_4 who have been determined to be ineligible for  
15 removal of conditions (and the reasons for such de-  
16 termination); and

17 (3) the number of individuals granted condi-  
18 tional permanent resident status under section  
19 17\_\_4 for whom no such determination has been  
20 made (and the reasons for the lack of such deter-  
21 mination).

22 (b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than an-  
23 nually, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney  
24 General, shall submit to the appropriate committees of  
25 Congress a report that includes for the preceding year,

1 with respect to individuals granted conditional permanent  
2 resident status under section 17\_\_4—

3 (1) the number of such individuals who are  
4 placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of  
5 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
6 1229a) charged with a ground of deportability under  
7 subsection (a)(2) of section 237 of that Act (8  
8 U.S.C. 1227), disaggregated by each applicable  
9 ground under that subsection;

10 (2) the number of such individuals who are  
11 placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of  
12 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
13 1229a) charged with a ground of deportability under  
14 subsection (a)(3) of section 237 of that Act (8  
15 U.S.C. 1227), disaggregated by each applicable  
16 ground under that subsection;

17 (3) the number of final orders of removal issued  
18 pursuant to proceedings described in paragraphs (1)  
19 and (2), disaggregated by each applicable ground of  
20 deportability;

21 (4) the number of such individuals for whom  
22 such proceedings are pending, disaggregated by each  
23 applicable ground of deportability; and

24 (5) a review of the available options for removal  
25 from the United States, including any changes in

1 the feasibility of such options during the preceding  
2 year.

3 **SEC. 17\_\_10. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

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

