

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:
1292 Sadler Way Rm. 323
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-1088



Session – January-April:
State Capitol Rm 500
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3004

Representative Will Stapp

District 32: East Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Badger

Rep.Will.Stapp@akleg.gov

Sponsor Statement for HJR 13

After the September 11, 2001 attacks on our nation, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) on October 7, 2001. The primary purpose of the mission was to address the issue of Al-Qaeda influence in Afghanistan. During OEF, Afghani nationals assisted our US servicemembers as translators and interpreters throughout their mission. The acts of these Afghani nationals provided necessary communication and understanding of cultural norms.

In 2006, the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program was established as part of the Afghan Allies Protection Act and was expanded in 2008 to include Iraqi nationals who assisted in the same capacity in Iraq under Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). This program allowed those who assisted us to apply and gain permanent US residency.

Since the botched evacuation of US forces in Afghanistan in 2021, processing and approval of these SIV's and the subsequent evacuation of these Afghani nationals and their families have been delayed or stalled. HJR 13 aims to rectify this by respectfully urging the President of the United States to order the US Secretary of State to resume, expand, and expedite the processing of these SIV applications and the evacuations of these individuals and their families.

These Afghani citizens risked their lives and the lives of their families under Taliban rule to assist our servicemembers during Operation Enduring Freedom, on the promise that their service could be repaid with a chance at permanent US residency. We must honor our promises as a nation and do our best to assist these allies.