

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
 THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES STAPP, Saddler, Eischeid, Fields, Hannan, Hall, Allard, Josephson, Gray, Story, Bynum, Mina, Kopp

Introduced: 3/21/25

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the President of the United States to expand evacuation efforts for applicants**
 2 **with approved Special Immigrant Visas, including resumption of evacuation flights**
 3 **organized by the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts; urging the United States**
 4 **Department of State to secure legal protections and humanitarian assistance for Special**
 5 **Immigrant Visa applicants; and requesting that the United States Secretary of State**
 6 **provide a report to Congress regarding efforts to reinstate evacuation flights for**
 7 **applicants with approved Special Immigrant Visas.**

8 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

9 **WHEREAS**, on September 11, 2001, the United States experienced an unprecedented
 10 terrorist attack in which nearly 3,000 innocent lives were lost, leading to the nation's
 11 commitment to dismantle terrorist networks and ensure global security; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in response to the September 11 attacks, the United States launched
 13 Operation Enduring Freedom on October 7, 2001, marking the beginning of the United States-
 14 led mission in Afghanistan to eliminate Al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban regime, which had

1 provided sanctuary to terrorist operatives; and

2 **WHEREAS**, on January 6, 2006, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
3 Year 2006 (P.L. 109-163) was enacted, including sec. 1059, which formally established the
4 Special Immigrant Visa program as part of the Afghan Allies Protection Act; and

5 **WHEREAS** the Special Immigrant Visa program provided a pathway for Iraqi and
6 Afghan nationals who worked as translators or interpreters for United States military forces to
7 apply for permanent United States residency, recognizing their vital contributions and
8 ensuring their protection; and

9 **WHEREAS**, on January 28, 2008, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
10 Year 2008 (P.L. 110-181) was enacted, incorporating the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act of 2007
11 under Subtitle C (secs. 1241 - 1249), which expanded the Special Immigrant Visa program to
12 recognize the significant threats faced by Iraqi and Afghan allies who served the United States
13 government, military, and contractors by allowing more Iraqi and Afghan allies to become
14 eligible for visas, ensuring broader protections and a pathway to permanent residency in the
15 United States; and

16 **WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2009, the Afghan Allies Protection Act was enacted as
17 sec. 602(b) of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 111-8), which established a
18 dedicated Special Immigrant Visa program for Afghan nationals, distinct from the Iraqi
19 program, and authorized the issuance of 7,500 visas over five years to Afghan allies who
20 provided faithful and valuable service to the United States government; and

21 **WHEREAS** the number of visas authorized for Afghans by the Special Immigrant
22 Visa program has since been increased, through amendments by Congress, to a total of more
23 than 50,500 visas; and

24 **WHEREAS** the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts in the United States
25 Department of State is responsible for implementing sec. 2502 of the Extending Government
26 Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 117-43), which authorized the
27 emergency evacuation and resettlement of Afghan allies following the withdrawal of the
28 United States from Afghanistan; and

29 **WHEREAS** many Afghan Americans who have served alongside our service
30 members and have already entered the United States through blue passports, green cards, or
31 approved Special Immigrant Visas may still be trying to reunite with spouses and children

1 who remain stranded in Afghanistan or Pakistan;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the
3 United States to direct the United States Secretary of State to immediately resume evacuation
4 flights organized by the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts to transport applicants
5 with approved Special Immigrant Visas and their families from Afghanistan to designated
6 third-party country processing centers; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the
8 United States to direct the United States Secretary of State to expedite and expand the
9 evacuation of applicants with approved Special Immigrant Visas and their families from third-
10 party host countries to the United States, ensuring timely processing and resettlement; and be
11 it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
13 Department of State to resume processing stalled applications by Afghan allies who have
14 approved Special Immigrant Visas for the evacuation of their families from third-party host
15 countries to the United States, thus preventing Afghan allies and their families from being
16 separated indefinitely; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
18 Department of State to secure legal protections and humanitarian assistance for Special
19 Immigrant Visa applicants stranded in third-party host countries, preventing forced
20 deportations or detentions; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
22 Secretary of State to provide a report to Congress within 60 days after receiving this
23 resolution, detailing efforts to reinstate evacuation flights for applicants with approved
24 Special Immigrant Visas and their families, including efforts to overcome logistical barriers
25 and conduct diplomatic negotiations.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
27 of the United States; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President of the United States and
28 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of
29 Representatives; the Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
30 Honorable Marco Rubio, United States Secretary of State; Mara Tekach, Coordinator for
31 Afghan Relocation Efforts; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan

- 1 Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of
- 2 the Alaska delegation in Congress.