

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2025

Source
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Legislative
Resolve No.
15



Urging the President of the United States to expand evacuation efforts for applicants with approved Special Immigrant Visas, including resumption of evacuation flights organized by the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts; urging the United States Department of State to secure legal protections and humanitarian assistance for Special Immigrant Visa applicants; urging the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the United States Department of Homeland Security to expedite the review of applications for Special Immigrant Visas; and requesting that the United States Secretary of State provide a report to Congress regarding efforts to reinstate evacuation flights for applicants with approved Special Immigrant Visas.

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

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

WHEREAS, in response to the September 11 attacks, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom on October 7, 2001, marking the beginning of the United States-led mission in Afghanistan to eliminate al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban regime, which had provided sanctuary to terrorist operatives; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2006, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal

Year 2006 (P.L. 109-163) was enacted, including sec. 1059, which formally established the Special Immigrant Visa program as part of the Afghan Allies Protection Act; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS many Afghan Americans who have served alongside our service members and have already entered the United States through blue passports, green cards, or approved Special Immigrant Visas may still be trying to reunite with spouses and children who remain stranded in Afghanistan or Pakistan;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the

United States to direct the United States Secretary of State to immediately resume evacuation flights organized by the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts to transport applicants with approved Special Immigrant Visas and their families from Afghanistan to designated third-party country processing centers; and be it

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the United States Department of Homeland Security to expedite the review of pending applications for Special Immigrant Visas; and be it

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

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

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Marco Rubio, United States Secretary of State; Mara Tekach, Coordinator for

Afghan Relocation Efforts, U.S. Department of State; Kika Scott, Acting Deputy Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.