

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 10, 2025

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CONGRESS SHOULD PASS BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION PROVIDING RESIDENCY FOR AFGHAN ALLIES

Denver, CO—The Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado (RACC) urges members of Colorado’s Congressional Delegation to support the bills introduced last month in both the U.S. Senate ([Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies Act](#)) and the U.S. House of Representatives ([Afghan Adjustment Act](#)) that would provide a pathway to permanent residency for Afghans who came to the United States as humanitarian parolees and who are at risk of being deported back to Afghanistan.

The withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan in August of 2021, following the political and military takeover of that country by the Taliban, created dangerous conditions for Afghan citizens who had worked with U.S. forces and the previous Afghan government to which it was allied. While some Afghans who have been resettled in the U.S. as refugees or as Special Immigrant Visa holders since the evacuation already have a pathway to residency and citizenship, the vast majority of Afghans who have arrived in the U.S. since the Taliban returned to power came to the U.S. as humanitarian parolees. Because humanitarian parole is a temporary status that can be revoked, it puts the approximately 76,000 Afghan nationals here under that status at risk of deportation and persecution or even death at the hands of the Taliban.

While the U.S. Congress has considered bills to adjust the temporary status of Afghans who came to the U.S. since the 2021 evacuation, there is renewed urgency in passing legislation at this time. The Trump Administration has already revoked Temporary Protected Status, another form of temporary residency, from over 11,000 Afghans, as well as nearly 800,000 individuals from several other countries where return of individuals is extremely dangerous, including Cameroon, Cuba, Haiti, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. The moral obligation to provide permanent residency to Afghans is particularly strong, since they are primarily endangered in their home country because they served alongside American troops, providing assistance to the United States and its allies during the nearly 20-year occupation of Afghanistan.

In the words of an Afghan who risked his life for the United States only to face uncertainty and punishment on U.S. soil, **“People now sit in detention, treated like criminals for doing exactly what I was asked to do.”** Congress must act. Passing these bills without delay will allow Afghan partners to move from fragile, temporary status to the stability of permanent residency. In doing so, America will uphold its moral and strategic commitments to those who stood shoulder to shoulder with our service members.

“These men, women, and families stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S. service members and carried tremendous risk to protect American lives,” said Deborah Young, Executive Director of Empowering Communities Globally. “They should not be left in limbo, forced to navigate a temporary and uncertain status. Congress must act now to pass legislation that provides permanent residency, so our allies can finally rebuild their lives, contribute fully to their communities, and live without the constant fear of deportation. Anything less would be a betrayal of our personal and national moral duty and national obligations.”

Congressman Jason Crow was a lead sponsor of the Afghan Adjustment Act when it was first introduced in 2022. Both the current House and Senate versions of the bills to support Afghans hold bipartisan support and RACC encourages all members of Colorado’s Congressional Delegation, regardless of party affiliation, to uphold the obligations of the United States to its Afghan allies by passing legislation to provide Afghan humanitarian parolees who pass security vetting with a permanent residency status.

“Four years after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan is already too long for Afghan allies who have been forced to flee their own country for safety to be given the peace of mind of permanent residency in the United States,” said Paula Schriefer, President and CEO of Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning. “I’m grateful to my representative, Congressman Crow, for his leadership on legislation that would allow Afghans to rebuild their lives without fear of deportation and ask other members of Congress to lend their support.”

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The **Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado** was formed by a group of individuals and organizations who stand united to advocate for and with refugees to promote a welcoming community and advance opportunities where refugees thrive. [Apply to join us](#) or find us at facebook.com/RefugeeActionCO