

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

March 4, 2025

Dear President Trump,

We write to you today with concern over reports that the Administration is preparing to permanently dismantle the State Department's Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts (CARE) and the Enduring Welcome operations it oversees. Enduring Welcome is the last remaining pathway to relocate Afghan allies who stood alongside American forces.

From day one, your Administration's efforts to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse as well as to secure our southern border and right the shameful failures of your predecessor have been commendable. However, executive orders pausing the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and freezing foreign aid have resulted in the immediate shutdown of Afghan relocation efforts. It has come to our attention that while this has been a temporary measure, the State Department may plan for a permanent shutdown of CARE and Enduring Welcome.

Such a decision would abandon over 200,000 wartime allies and have lasting consequences for America's global credibility, military operations, and veterans. These are not random applicants or illegal migrants who've crossed the Southern border as a result of the failures of the previous Administration. Every individual in the Enduring Welcome pipeline served alongside American forces, risked their lives for our mission, and was promised a path to safety. The Afghans in this program are the most vetted immigrants in U.S. history having undergone extensive screening by DHS, DOD, FBI, CIA, and the State Department.

The Taliban considers anyone who worked with the U.S. to be an enemy. They are being hunted, detained, and executed. Over 3,200 documented killings and disappearances of former Afghan military personnel, interpreters, and U.S. government partners have already occurred. This is all being conducted by the same forces who harbor al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups, suppress women's rights, and openly execute those who oppose them.

For many Afghans in the pipeline, staying in Afghanistan is a death sentence. Unlike past conflicts, there is no U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan to process visas or provide consular support. Without Enduring Welcome, Afghans who qualify for relocation have no legal pathway to reach safety and cannot simply "apply from home"—their only options are escape or death.

The United States has always relied on local partners in conflict zones to support our troops, conduct intelligence operations, and reinforce democracy. Shutting down Afghan relocation efforts will have immediate and long-term consequences:

- **Loss of trust in the U.S. military and intelligence operations.** Future allies will refuse to work with American forces if they believe we will abandon them in the next war.
- **Empowering U.S. adversaries.** The Taliban, ISIS-K, and other extremist groups are already using this decision in propaganda, framing it as proof that America abandons its friends.
- **Immediate threat to active-duty military families.** Over 3,000 spouses, children, and parents of active-duty U.S. service members are now indefinitely trapped in Afghanistan.
- **Destabilization in key regions.** Pakistan has already announced it will begin deporting Afghan refugees, including many in the U.S. relocation pipeline, back to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.
- **A recruitment tool for terrorist groups.** Extremist organizations thrive when the U.S. government fails to protect those who stood by us.

The total cost of the war in Afghanistan was \$2.23 trillion—more than \$300 million per day for 20 years. Now all that is left is to finish cleaning up the mess of the Afghanistan withdrawal by keeping our promise to those who served alongside our troops. Congress has already allocated resources for Afghan resettlement through bipartisan legislation. The infrastructure of Enduring Welcome is already in place. Dismantling this and shutting down the program will be an expensive and irreversible decision that will likely cost more than to keep it running.

These efforts have nothing to do with security at our Southern border and remain the safest, most secure legal immigration pathways in U.S. history. They help those who have stood with the United States only to be hung out to dry by the catastrophic withdrawal and abandonment by the Biden Administration. By resuming relocation services for SIVs who have already completed thorough security vetting and been approved for relocation, restarting refugee admissions for vetted Afghans, and ensuring the continuation of resettlement support already established by Congress, you can fulfill our nation's promise to our Afghan allies.

We urge you to reconsider any possible efforts to permanently shut down CARE and Enduring Welcome before we can save our allies. You can ensure that the door is closed on this chapter of American history with one last successful act of redemption and honor.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent national security matter. We appreciate your review of these questions and look forward to hearing back.


Sincerely,



Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul  
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Richard Hudson  
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