

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Noem and Secretary Rubio:

We write with deep concern about the Department of Homeland Security's termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Afghanistan, which is scheduled to take effect on July 14, 2025. This decision is devastating for resettled Afghan nationals in the United States who have fled widespread violence, economic instability, challenging humanitarian conditions, and human rights abuses in their home country. Many of these Afghans fearlessly served as strong allies to the United States military during the war in Afghanistan, and we cannot blatantly disregard their service. We respectfully ask that you redesignate Afghanistan for TPS to ensure Afghan nationals in the U.S. are not forced to return to devastating humanitarian, civic, and economic conditions.

The Secretary of Homeland Security "may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately."¹ This is why, following the withdrawal of American troops and the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan, in May 2022 the U.S. designated Afghanistan for TPS.² In September 2023, the U.S. extended and redesignated TPS for Afghanistan. The Administration's decision to terminate TPS for Afghanistan negatively impacts approximately 9,000 Afghan nationals.³

In your announcement, you state that "there are notable improvements in the security and economic situation such that requiring the return of Afghan nationals to Afghanistan does not pose a threat to their personal safety due to armed conflict or extraordinary and temporary conditions."⁴ But you also concede that threats of violence and terrorism, as well as humanitarian concerns, remain.⁵ The Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), the Afghan affiliate of the Islamic State (ISIS), continues to launch attacks against ethnic and religious minorities and against the Taliban, leading to innocent civilian casualties. If Afghan nationals are forced to return to Afghanistan, they will be caught in the crossfire between the Taliban and ISKP.⁶ According to Human Rights Watch, in 2024, Taliban authorities intensified their crackdown on human rights, especially against women and girls. Women and girls are banned from attending secondary school or university and are unable to move freely.

¹ What is TPS, Temporary Protected Status, Department of Homeland Security, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>.

² Termination of the Designation of Afghanistan for Temporary Protected Status, <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2025-08201.pdf>

³ Hiba Ahmad, Afghan refugees who have settled outside D.C. now help others to do the same, NPR, <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/13/1080464218/afghan-refugees-who-have-settled-outside-d-c-now-help-others-to-do-the-same>.

⁴ DHS Terminating Temporary Protected Status for Afghanistan, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/05/12/dhs-terminating-temporary-protected-status-afghanistan>.

⁵ Termination of the Designation of Afghanistan for Temporary Protected Status, <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2025-08201.pdf>.

⁶ Afghanistan: Events of 2024, World Report, Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/afghanistan>

The Taliban also continues to detain and torture journalists, curtailing free speech and media. The 2023 U.S. State Department Human Rights Report covering Afghanistan found that women's rights rapidly declined and restrictions on freedom of expression increased. The horrific human rights conditions in Afghanistan are unsafe for Afghan nationals to return to and returning would put their personal safety at immediate risk.

We are also deeply concerned about the State Department Human Rights Report finding that widespread arbitrary and unlawful killings against officials associated with the pre-August 2021 government have occurred.⁷ Afghan nationals who assisted the U.S. military should not be put in harm's way because they supported the U.S. in its fight against the Taliban. This would be a betrayal of those who bravely served alongside our servicemembers for nearly two decades.

Afghan civilians still face devastating humanitarian and economic conditions. Over half of the population in Afghanistan needs urgent humanitarian assistance. Human Rights Watch reports that in 2024, 12.4 million people were facing food insecurity and 2.9 million were at emergency levels of hunger.⁸ The World Bank also found that in Afghanistan, as of May 2025, "per capita income has stagnated, while poverty and food insecurity remain pressing challenges, exacerbated by high unemployment and restrictions on women's economic participation."⁹

The grave conditions that forced Afghan nationals to flee and seek refuge in the U.S. following the return of the Taliban to power remain. Because of this harsh reality, forcing Afghan nationals in the U.S. to return to Afghanistan would be reckless and inhumane, and would threaten the safety and well-being of thousands of individuals and families, especially women and girls.

In August 2021, Americans welcomed Afghan nationals at Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia with open arms, and we refuse to turn our backs on them now.¹⁰ We strongly urge you to reconsider your decision to terminate TPS for Afghanistan and ask that you respond to the following requests no later than two weeks of receipt of this letter:

1. Please provide any reports that credibly determine that conditions have improved in Afghanistan since 2023.
2. The TPS termination announcement stated that "there are recipients who have been under investigation for fraud and threatening our public safety and national security." Please provide additional details on how the Administration made this determination and how widespread these allegations of fraud and threats are.
3. Describe the collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State to reach the determination that Afghanistan no longer meets the conditions for designation for TPS.

⁷ 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Afghanistan, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>.

⁸ Afghanistan: Events of 2024, Human Rights Watch (2025), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/afghanistan#:~:text=More%20than%20half%20of%20Afghanistan's,at%20emergency%20levels%20of%20hunger>.

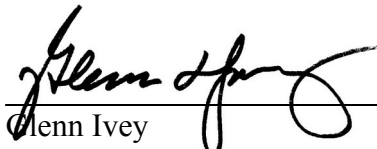
⁹ The World Bank in Afghanistan (May 1, 2025), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/afghanistan/overview>.

¹⁰ Drew Wilder, 'I'm Really Grateful': Afghans Fleeing Taliban Land at Dulles Airport, NBC Washington (August 18, 2021), <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/fleeing-afghans-arrive-in-dc/2775370/>.

4. Please provide any reports that indicate the Taliban is no longer a threat to Afghan nationals that assisted the United States military during the war in Afghanistan.
5. What steps are you taking to ensure that Afghan nationals who previously had TPS will not be sent back to persecution or torture in Afghanistan?

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and we hope to receive your responses soon.

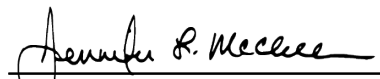
Sincerely,

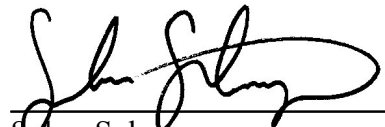

Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress

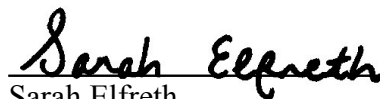

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

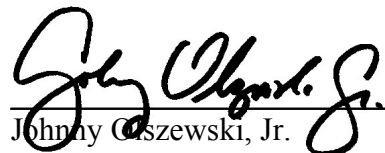

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

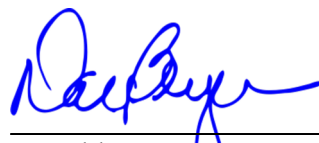

Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress

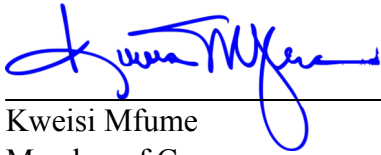

Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress


Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress

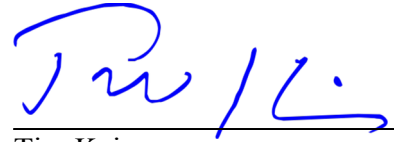

Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress


Angela Alsobrooks
United States Senator


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



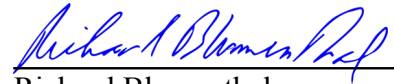
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



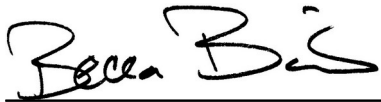
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



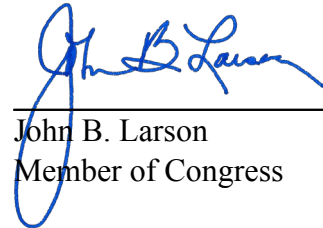
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



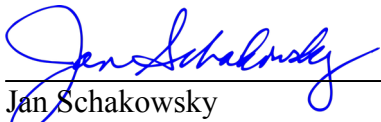
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



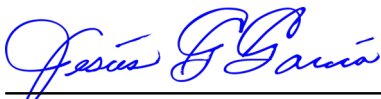
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



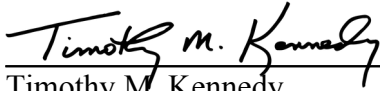
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



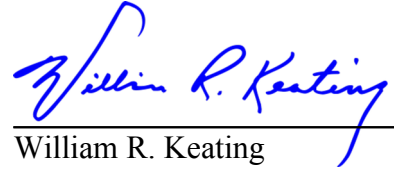
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



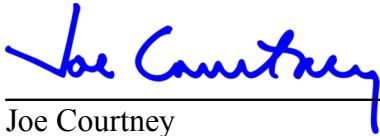
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



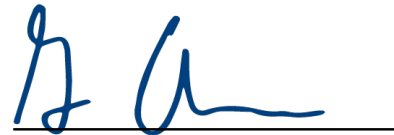
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



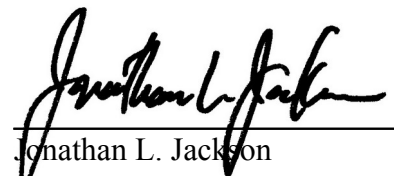
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



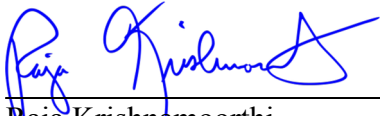
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
United States Senator



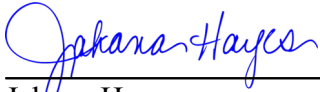
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



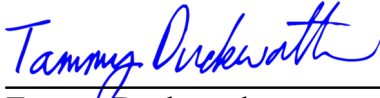
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



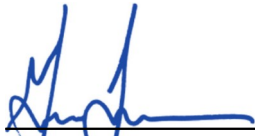
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



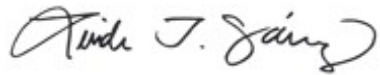
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



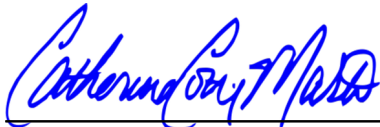
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



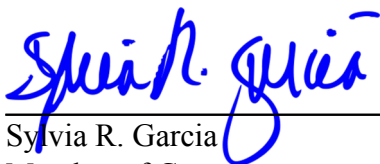
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



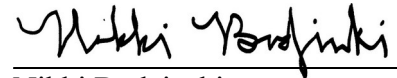
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



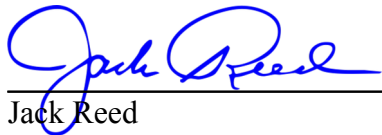
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



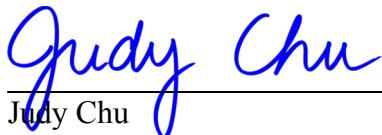
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



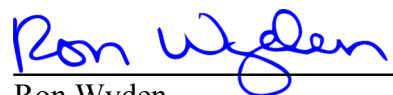
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



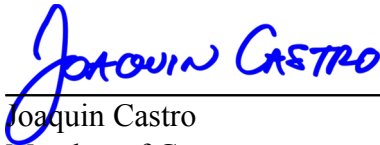
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



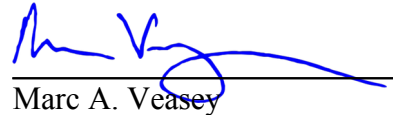
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



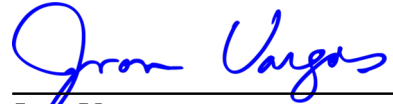
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



John Fetterman
United States Senator



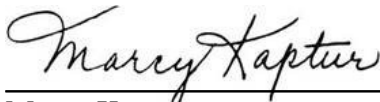
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



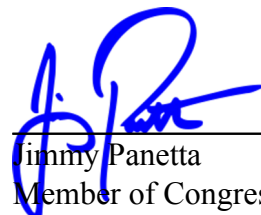
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



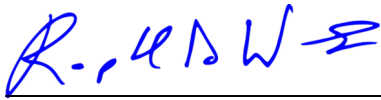
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



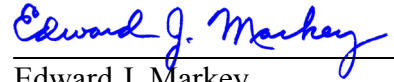
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



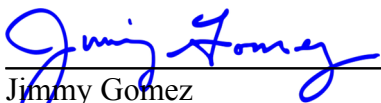
Tina Smith
United States Senator



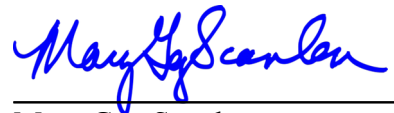
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



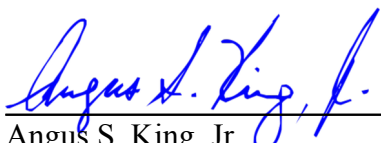
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



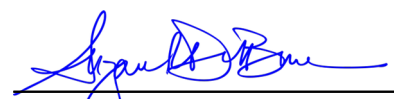
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



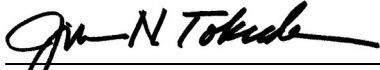
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



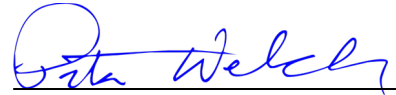
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



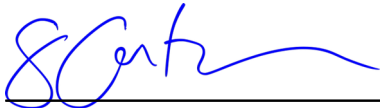
Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



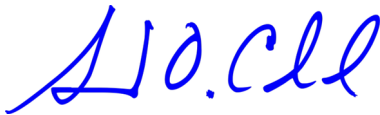
Peter Welch
United States Senator



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress