

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To support nationals of Afghanistan who are applicants for special immigrant visas or for referral to the United States Refugee Admissions Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.

H. R. 4350

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. BLUMENTHAL
to the amendment (No. 3867) proposed by Mr. REED

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle B of title XII, insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SEC. 1216. SUPPORT FOR NATIONALS OF AFGHANISTAN**
4 **WHO ARE APPLICANTS FOR SPECIAL IMMI-**
5 **GRANT VISAS OR FOR REFERRAL TO THE**
6 **UNITED STATES REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
9 gress that the United States should increase support for

1 nationals of Afghanistan who aided the United States mis-
2 sion in Afghanistan during the past 20 years and are now
3 under threat from the Taliban, specifically such nationals
4 of Afghanistan, in Afghanistan or third countries, who are
5 applicants for—

6 (1) special immigrant visas under the Afghan
7 Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note;
8 Public Law 111–8) or section 1059 of the National
9 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8
10 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 109–163); or

11 (2) referral to the United States Refugee Ad-
12 missions Program as refugees (as defined in section
13 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
14 (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42))), including as Priority 2 ref-
15 ugees.

16 (b) SUPPORT FOR NATIONALS OF AFGHANISTAN.—
17 The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary
18 of Homeland Security and the heads of other relevant
19 Federal departments and agencies, shall—

20 (1) prioritize for evacuation from Afghanistan
21 nationals of Afghanistan described in subsection (a);

22 (2) facilitate the rapid departure from Afghani-
23 stan of such nationals of Afghanistan by air charter
24 and land passage;

1 (3) provide letters of support, diplomatic notes,
2 and other documentation, as appropriate, to ease
3 transit for such nationals of Afghanistan;

4 (4) engage governments of relevant countries to
5 better facilitate evacuation of such nationals of Af-
6 ghanistan;

7 (5) disseminate frequent updates to such na-
8 tionals of Afghanistan and relevant nongovernmental
9 organizations with respect to evacuation from Af-
10 ghanistan;

11 (6) identify or establish sufficient locations out-
12 side Afghanistan that will accept such nationals of
13 Afghanistan during application processing; and

14 (7) increase capacity to better support such na-
15 tionals of Afghanistan and reduce their application
16 processing times, while ensuring strict and necessary
17 security vetting, including, to the extent practicable,
18 by allowing such nationals of Afghanistan to receive
19 referrals to the United States Refugee Admissions
20 Program while they are still in Afghanistan so as to
21 initiate application processing more expeditiously.

22 (c) STRATEGY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
25 of State, in coordination with the Secretary of

1 Homeland Security and the heads of other relevant
2 Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to
3 the appropriate committees of Congress a strategy
4 for the safe processing abroad of nationals of Af-
5 ghanistan described in subsection (a).

6 (2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by
7 paragraph (1) shall include steps to be taken by the
8 United States Government to fulfill each require-
9 ment under subsection (b).

10 (3) FORM.—The strategy required by para-
11 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
12 but may include a classified annex.

13 (d) MONTHLY REPORT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, and monthly
16 thereafter until December 31, 2022, the Secretary of
17 State, in coordination with the Secretary of Home-
18 land Security and the heads of other relevant Fed-
19 eral departments and agencies, shall submit to the
20 appropriate committees of Congress a report on ef-
21 forts to support nationals of Afghanistan described
22 in subsection (a).

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by para-
24 graph (1) shall include the following:

1 (A) The number of nationals of Afghani-
2 stan referred to the United States Refugee Ad-
3 missions Program as Priority 1 and Priority 2
4 refugees since August 29, 2021.

5 (B) An assessment of whether each such
6 refugee—

7 (i) remains in Afghanistan; or

8 (ii) is outside Afghanistan.

9 (C) With respect to nationals of Afghani-
10 stan who have applied for referral to the United
11 States Refugee Program, the number applica-
12 tions that—

13 (i) have been approved;

14 (ii) have been denied; and

15 (iii) are pending adjudication.

16 (D) The number of nationals of Afghani-
17 stan who have pending applications for special
18 immigrant visas described in subsection (a)(1),
19 disaggregated by the special immigrant visa
20 processing steps completed with respect to such
21 individuals.

22 (E) A description of the measures taken to
23 implement the strategy under subsection (c).

1 (3) FORM.—Each report required by paragraph
2 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
3 include a classified annex.

4 (e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
5 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
6 tees of Congress” means—

7 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
8 Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on
9 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and
10 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

11 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
12 Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on
13 Homeland Security, and the Committee on Armed
14 Services of the House of Representatives.