

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6198

To increase support for Afghan special immigrant visa and refugee applicants,  
and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To increase support for Afghan special immigrant visa and  
refugee applicants, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Continued Support for  
5 Afghan Allies Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA**  
7 **AND REFUGEE APPLICANTS.**

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 twenty years and are  
3 now under threat from the Taliban, specifically special im-  
4 migrant visa applicants who are nationals of Afghanistan  
5 and referrals of nationals of Afghanistan to the United  
6 States Refugee Admissions Program, including through  
7 the Priority 2 Designation for nationals of Afghanistan,  
8 who remain in Afghanistan or are in third countries.

9 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of State, in co-  
10 ordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and  
11 the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agen-  
12 cies, shall—

13 (1) prioritize for evacuation from Afghanistan  
14 bona fide special immigrant visa applicants who are  
15 nationals of Afghanistan and referrals of nationals  
16 of Afghanistan to the United States Refugee Admis-  
17 sions Program, including through the Priority 2  
18 Designation for nationals of Afghanistan;

19 (2) facilitate the rapid departure of such indi-  
20 viduals from Afghanistan by air charter and land  
21 passage;

22 (3) provide letters of support, diplomatic notes  
23 and other documentation, as appropriate, to ease  
24 transit of such individuals;

1           (4) engage governments of relevant countries to  
2       better facilitate evacuation;

3           (5) disseminate frequent updates to such indi-  
4       viduals and relevant nongovernmental organizations;

5           (6) identify or establish sufficient locations out-  
6       side of Afghanistan that will accept such individuals  
7       during application processing; and

8           (7) further surge capacity to better support  
9       such individuals and reduce their application proc-  
10      essing times, while ensuring strict and necessary se-  
11      curity vetting, including, to the extent practicable,  
12      enabling refugee referrals to initiate application  
13      processes while still in Afghanistan.

14       (c) STRATEGY AND REPORTING.—The Secretary of  
15   State, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Se-  
16   curity and the heads of other relevant Federal depart-  
17   ments and agencies, shall submit to the committees on  
18   Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, Homeland Security, and  
19   Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the  
20   committees on Foreign Relations, Judiciary, Homeland  
21   Security and Governmental Affairs, and Armed Services  
22   of the Senate the following:

23           (1) Not later than 60 days after the date of the  
24       enactment of this Act, a strategy, with a classified  
25       annex if necessary, to safely process nationals of Af-

1       ghanistan abroad who have pending special immi-  
2       grant visa applications and refugee referrals, which  
3       strategy shall include steps by the United States  
4       Government to carry out each of paragraphs (1)  
5       through (7) of subsection (b).

6               (2) Not later than 60 days after the date of the  
7       enactment of this Act, and every month thereafter  
8       until December 31, 2022, a report, with a classified  
9       annex if necessary, that includes the following:

10               (A) The number of nationals of Afghani-  
11       stan—

12                       (i) referred to the United States Ref-  
13       ugee Admissions Program through Priority  
14       1 and Priority 2 referrals, including wheth-  
15       er such individuals remain in Afghanistan  
16       or outside Afghanistan, and the number of  
17       refugee applications for such individuals  
18       that are approved, denied, and pending;  
19       and

20                       (ii) who have pending special immi-  
21       grant visa applications who remain in Af-  
22       ghanistan or in a third country,  
23       disaggregated by the special immigrant  
24       visa processing steps completed with re-  
25       spect to such individuals.

- 1 (B) Steps taken to implement each element
- 2 of the strategy described in paragraph (1).

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