

July 26th, 2023
Honorable Members of Congress,
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of Congress

One of the enduring legacies of Operations Allies Refuge and Allies Welcome is the extensive roles played by veterans, civilians, and military service members -operating of their own accord-in providing lifesaving, direct aid to Afghan Allies. These actions were borne out of a sense of duty, moral obligation and compassion towards the thousands of Afghans who shouldered an immense burden on behalf of the interests of the United States.

It is important to note however, that the burdens taken up by this narrow assortment of Americans did not end when the final C-17 lifted off from Hamid Karzai International Airport.

When the situation for Afghan Allies was the bleakest in the winter of 2022, it was American civilians and veterans who lead the charge in continuing to provide food, shelter and immigration assistance. These selfless actions came at an immense cost, as most of those who provided aid did so out of their own personal finances. College and retirement savings were depleted. Jobs were lost, and houses were sold. This is to say nothing about the catastrophic emotional, mental and moral injuries incurred in the process.

We the undersigned, encourage the United States Congress to consider a feasibility study towards reimbursing United States persons who expended personal funds to evacuate American citizens, lawful permanent residents of the United States, or Afghan allies from Afghanistan from August 2021 and into 2022.

We thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kasza
1208 Foundation

Amy Marden
ReactDC

Candace Cieslo
Black Feather Foundation

Matthew Young
Heart of an Ace

Sarah Adams
UNCN

Travis Peterson
Moral Compass Federation

Bishop Robert Gosselin
CEEC Church

Catalina Gasper
Task Force Diablo

Timothy Torres
Moral Compass Federation

Ben Owen
Flanders Fields

Joseph Maida
Justice Sector Group

Joseph Laude
Operation Allies Refuge Foundation

BG (Ret.) David Hicks
Operation Sacred Promise

Shannon Spann DeBruyn
Badger Six