

November 21, 2022

Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: 129 Maine Veterans and Military Service Members Call on You to Co-Sponsor the Bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act and to Ensure it is Passed into Law by the End of the Year

Dear Senator Collins,

The 129 undersigned Maine veterans, military service members, and military family members who have faithfully served our nation write to you today to urgently request that you co-sponsor the bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act (AAA). The AAA will meet our country's obligations to our wartime allies, honor and protect current and future U.S. military members and protect the national security of all Americans.

We have a code in the military, "no one left behind." For two decades, we fought shoulder-to-shoulder with brave Afghan allies who served with and protected American forces, fighting for the freedom of Afghanistan and its people. Last year, when the Taliban seized control of the country, our Afghan allies came under targeted threat due to their loyalty to the United States and shared belief in the values and principles of democracy. Tens of thousands were forced to evacuate, losing everything, including their families in many cases. Thousands of Afghan allies and their families were not able to escape Afghanistan and are in hiding, facing starvation, and actively being hunted because of their alliance with the United States.¹

Afghans who were evacuated by the United States and brought here by the United States under temporary parole have no clear path to remain in the U.S. The AAA solves this by creating a clear, secure pathway to lawful permanent residence for our allies while ensuring timely and stringent vetting. Congress passed similar legislation in the wake of other wartime evacuations and humanitarian crises, including the Vietnam War.

In addition to the moral injury that we are facing because of those left behind and Congress' inaction to date to support those who were evacuated to U.S. soil, the safety of our troops in future conflicts and national security of all Americans is at risk. We know from firsthand experience that the support of local partners on the ground in conflict zones is crucial to keeping U.S. troops safe, to ensuring we achieve our objectives, and to promoting U.S. interests. Twenty-five of the United States' largest veteran's organizations agree and have endorsed the AAA.² Failure to pass the AAA now will jeopardize the trust, loyalty, and support of local partners in future conflicts. It will cost us intel and American lives.

The AAA will also establish other strategic measures to help meet our obligations to our allies and safeguard the United States. These include establishing an Interagency Task Force responsible for creating and implementing a strategy to effectively manage the relocation and resettlement of eligible Afghan partners from Afghanistan over the next ten years. It will also rightfully expand Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) eligibility for high-risk Afghans from the Afghan National Army Special

Operations Command, Afghan Air Force, Special Mission Wing, and Female Tactical Teams who worked and served alongside U.S. forces.

Senator Collins, we know our Afghan counterparts, we served beside them, and we trust them with our lives. We, your constituent veterans and military members, are certain that the best way to protect our national security is to pass the AAA immediately. We call on you to join your fellow Republicans who are working across the aisle on this bipartisan effort. We urge you to cosponsor the AAA and represent the voices of Maine veterans and military service members in Congress by working to ensure this is done by the end of the year. The United States of America has an obligation to fulfill the promise we made our Afghan allies. It is a promise on which the next generation of military service members' lives will rely.

Very respectfully,

Jen Fullmer - U.S. Air Force - Ret., Biddeford
John Friberg - U.S. Army Special Forces - Ret., Norway
Brian deLutio - U.S. Navy - Ret., Scarborough
A. Frederick Hartman - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Phippsburg
Adriano Agostino, U.S. Coast Guard - Ret., Boothbay
AJ Fitzpatrick - U.S. Army - Veteran, Durham
Albert R. Scott - U.S. Army - Ret., Ellsworth
Alyssa Spillane - U.S. Army - Veteran, Chelsea
Amanda Brilliant - U.S. Navy - Ret., Harpswell
Anthony Butts - U.S. Air Force - Ret., Gorham
Anthony G. Jordan - U.S. Army - Veteran, Augusta
Arn Hegggers - U.S. Coast Guard - Ret., Windham
Bill Day - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Old Orchard Beach
Bill Donoghue - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Saco
Bill Patnaude - USAF - Ret., Arundel
Bret Meck - U.S. Navy - Ret., Windham
Brian Coxson - U.S. Navy - Ret., Hermon
Brooke Heddon Boord - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Boothbay Harbor
Bruce Blessington - U.S. Submarine Service - Veteran, Cape Elizabeth
Bryan E. McManus - U.S. Army - Veteran, Standish
Bryan Fuller - U.S. Marine Corps - Ret., Easton
Bryon Sullivan - U.S. Navy - Ret., Brunswick
Charles Schuman - U.S. Navy - Ret., Windham
Chris Inman - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Cape Elizabeth
Christopher Meyer - U.S. Marine Corps - Veteran, Kennebunkport

Christopher Saucier - U.S. Air Force - Reserve, Yarmouth
Cinjin Goewey - Maine Army National Guard, Palmyra
Connor Smith - Maine Army National Guard, Scarborough
Dan Sayner - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Brunswick
David M. Doyon - U.S. Army - Ret., Brunswick
David Max Korzen - U.S. Air Force - Reserve, Portland
David Rendall - U.S. Navy - Ret., Casco
David Tanguay, CDR - U.S. Navy - Ret., Windham
Dawn Olges - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Topsham
Donald Chase - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Winthrop
Donald K. Roche - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Old Orchard Beach
Doug Kennedy - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Windham
Drummond Boord - U.S. Navy - Ret., Boothbay Harbor
Dustin Smiley - U.S. Navy - Ret., Bangor
Dwayne Zografos - U.S. Coast Guard - Veteran, South Portland
Eddie Fullmer - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Biddeford
Edward Harry Tyler - U.S. Navy - Veteran, South Portland
Eugene Connolly - U.S. Army - Veteran, Casco
Frank James Walton - U.S. Army - Ret., Gorham
Fred E. Anderson - U.S. Military Veteran, Island Falls
Gene Foster - U.S. Navy - Ret., Arundel
Grant Delaware - Maine Army National Guard - Ret., Scarborough
Guy Langevin - U.S. Army - Veteran, Scarborough
Guy T. Williams - U.S. Army - Ret., Phippsburg
Ian Dufour - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Lyman
Ike Hubbard - U.S. Army - Veteran, Jonesport
James Cox - U.S. Marine Corps Reserve - Veteran, Cape Elizabeth
James Hembree - U.S. Army - Veteran, Wallagrass
James Lowell - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Buckfield
James Silva - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Windham
Jason Beaudoin - U.S. Marine Corps - Ret., Kittery Point
Jason T. Hall - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Durham
Jeff Sukeforth - U.S. Air Force - Ret., Camden
Jim Trentalange - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Kennebunk
Joe Donahue - U.S. Navy - Ret., Brunswick
John E. Friberg - Air Force - Guard, Freeport

John Facella - U.S. Army - Veteran, Raymond
John Gouveia - U.S. Military Veteran, Wells
John Jones - U.S. Army - Ret., Deer Isle
John P. Hyland - U.S. Army - Veteran, South Portland
John Wilson - U.S. Army - Veteran, Windham
Jon Edstrom - U.S. Army - Veteran, Biddeford
Joseph E. Foster - U.S. Navy - Ret., Arundel
Joseph McKail - U.S. Army - Veteran, Biddeford
Joseph ML Bisson - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Brunswick
Karla Doremus-Tranfield - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Camden
Kathleen M. Koles - U.S. Air Force - Ret., Saco
Ken Sawyer - U.S. Air Force - Ret., Windham
Kenneth Kellogg - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Phippsburg
Kerrie Karsten - U.S. Army - Ret., Windham
Kevin Morse - USAF - Ret., West Bath
Kevin Therrien - U.S. Air Force - Ret., Kennebunk
Kirk Thurston - U.S. Navy - Ret., Rumford
Krista Keene - Maine Army National Guard - Veteran, Guilford
Larry De Hof - U.S. Army - Veteran, Windham
Leroy McKenzie - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Fort Kent
Leslie Trentalange - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Kennebunk
Linwood Bailey - U.S. Army - Veteran, Gray
Lloyd Woods - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Stockholm
Luann Gagne - Navy - Veteran, Brunswick
Mark Morrissey - U.S. Coast Guard - Ret., Freeport
Matt Lillibridge - U.S. Army - Ret., West Gardiner
Matthew Jabaut - U.S. Army - Veteran, Lewiston
Matthew Sherbinski - U.S. Army - Veteran, Otisfield
Meghan Habibzai - U.S. Army - Veteran, South Portland
Michael Jones - U.S. Army - Veteran, Biddeford
Michael McInnis - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Saco
Michael R. Pock - U.S. Navy Reserve - Ret., South Portland
Mike Wisecup - U.S. Navy - Ret., Freeport
Mitchell Lombard - USAF - Ret., Portland
Nancy Laffin - U.S. Army - Veteran, West Bath
Nicholas Mangino - Maine Air National Guard, Guilford

Owen Casas - U.S. Marine Corps - Veteran, Camden
Paul C. Moessner - U.S. Navy - Ret., Wells
Paul L' Heurreux - U.S. Military - Veteran, Winslow
Pawel Binczyk - Maine Army National Guard, Gorham
Peter Black - Maine Army National Guard, Cape Elizabeth
Peter Reilly - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Belfast
Philip Etter- U.S. Navy - Veteran, Brunswick
Phyllis A Page - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Windham
Randy Bell - U.S. Navy- Active Duty, Topsham
Rhiannon Guzelian - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, Gorham
Richard J. Drapeau - U.S. Army - Veteran, Windham
Robert Burr - U.S. Marine Corps - Veteran, Scarborough
Robert G. Ackley - U.S. Coast Guard - Veteran, Topsham
Robert M. Balcavage - U.S. Army - Ret., Kennebunkport
Robert Mohlin - U.S. Marine Corps - Ret., Saco
Robert P. LaPorte, Jr. - U.S. Army - Veteran, Biddeford
Robert Scott Pearson - U.S. Navy - Ret., Scarborough
Robert T. Wilson Jr. - U.S. Navy - Veteran, South Portland
Ruger Pearson - U.S. Army - Veteran, Poland
Ryan Minzy - U.S. Army - Veteran, Kennebunk
Ryan Stovall - U.S. Army - Veteran, Phillips
Scott A. Ouillette - U.S. Navy - Ret., South Portland
Scott Cryer - U.S. Marine Corps - Veteran, Wells
Scott Doughty - U.S. Air Force - Veteran, York
Sean Spillane - U.S. Army - Ret., Chelsea
Sharon A. Beaudoin - U.S. Marine Corps - Spouse, Kittery Point
Thomas J. Korzen - U.S. Navy - Veteran, Brunswick
Thomas K. Houck - U.S. Army - Veteran, Portland
Thomas Theriault - U.S. Army - Veteran, Gorham
Wayne Butler - U.S. Coast Guard - Ret., Buxton
Werner W. Spletstoeser - U.S. Coast Guard - Ret., South Portland
William E. Benson - U.S. Army - Ret., Gorham

¹ Biden's broken promise to SIV holders, Politico, May 16, 2022, <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/west-wing-playbook/2022/05/16/bidens-broken-promise-to-siv-holders-00032682>

² Evacuate Our Allies Veterans' letter, <https://www.evacuateourallies.org/advocacy/aaa-veteran-letter>