



TELL CONGRESS TO PASS THE AFGHAN ADJUSTMENT ACT (AAA)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The AAA would allow Afghans who were paroled into the U.S. to apply for legal permanent residency one year after their entry. Refugees, Asylees and other humanitarian immigrants are permitted to apply for legal permanent residency one year after they obtain that status. For Afghans, who had to evacuate quickly and chaotically, forcing them to wait a full year after they obtain asylum (since there wasn't time for most of them to obtain refugee status before they had to flee) will mean that they would have to wait many, many years to be able to obtain permanent residency. This only forces them to continue to need to apply for work authorization—for a fee—and limits their ability to petition for family members who remain in danger in Afghanistan. It also further delays their ability to move forward with naturalization since that cannot happen until five years after they become permanent residents.

CALL/LETTER SCRIPT

My name is _____ and I live at _____ and I vote. I am calling to demand that you: vote in favor of the Afghan Adjustment Act. This Act will ensure that Afghans who were forced to evacuate as a direct result of American actions in Afghanistan, are able to obtain adjust their legal status and obtain permanent residency immediately upon receipt of asylum. There is no reason to force them to wait a year and doing so only makes things unnecessarily more difficult and burdensome for them and the non-profit agencies that are resettling them and assisting them with their legal needs. Forcing them to wait and then file additional legal petitions is only costing the American government a great deal more as they must pay workers to review these petitions and provide funding to support legal representatives to help Afghans navigate our broken immigration system. This is a complete waste of taxpayer dollars as well as an insult to our Afghan allies who sacrificed everything to help us. There is no justification for forcing them to wait a year to receive permanent residency.

To this script, it would be more effective if you were able to add any kind of personal story – either about your own or your family’s immigration experience if there was humanitarian need, or about a loved one, a colleague, a neighbor, or a friend. If you know of any challenges faced because of immigration delays and nonsensical multiple steps such as needing to file for adjustment even though filing for, and receiving, asylum status has already occurred, it would be good to add your story here. If you have no personal immigration stories you can add information about why you think it is important to support a stream-lined process, without additional waits, processing and hurdles for our Afghan allies.

Contact your legislators and ask them to support the Afghan Adjustment Act today!