

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2018

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith:

As you work to draft the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, we urge you to include report language on the need to authorize additional visas for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. The President's FY19 budget request included funding for 4,000 visas and your committee included similar language in the report accompanying H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY18.

Specifically, we request the inclusion of the following report language:

The Committee notes the importance of the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program and understands the critical role that our wartime partners play in assisting the United States mission and United States Armed Forces in Afghanistan. Failing to authorize additional visas would leave threatened local partners in serious danger for many additional months beyond current processing times sometimes exceeding one year. This exposes these individuals and their families to attack, kidnapping, and death. The continuation of this program is critical.

In previous years, Congress has used the NDAA to demonstrate its steadfast support for our allies, while assuring others across the globe that the United States will stand by its commitments in future missions. We respectfully urge you to continue this support by recognizing the sacrifice of our Afghan allies and including this language in your bill.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request and for your leadership on the Armed Services Committees.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress