

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6904

To direct the Secretary of State to further surge capacity to better support special immigrant visa applicants who are nationals of Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 22, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself and Mr. WALTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to further surge capacity to better support special immigrant visa applicants who are nationals of Afghanistan, 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 “Support Our Afghan
5 Partners Act of 2023”.

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 further surge capacity to better support special
13 immigrant visa applicants who are nationals of Afghani-
14 stan and referrals of nationals of Afghanistan to the
15 United States Refugee Admissions Program and who have
16 been approved by the chief of mission, including through
17 the Priority 2 Designation for nationals of Afghanistan,
18 and reduce their application processing times, while ensur-
19 ing strict and necessary security vetting, including, to the
20 extent practicable, enabling refugee referrals to initiate
21 application processes while still in Afghanistan.

22 (c) SURGE CAPACITY DESCRIBED.—The term “surge
23 capacity” includes increasing consular personnel to any

- 1 embassy or consulate in the region processing visa applica-
- 2 tions for nationals of Afghanistan.

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