

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2025

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Noem,

After reviewing the Executive Order *Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program*, we respectfully urge you to uphold our commitment to our Afghan allies and consider an exception for immediate family members of Afghan minor children who currently reside in the United States.

Family reunification is a priority that aligns with our nation's values and interests. During and after the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan, many Afghan children arrived in the U.S. without their immediate family members. These children have filed DS-4317 Family Reunification applications to bring their parents and siblings to the United States. However, as these applications continue to be processed through the Department of State, these children remain separated from their families. This unfortunate situation has left these children vulnerable.

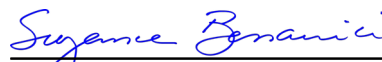
In the United States, the safety and well-being of children are paramount. These families have already been approved for refugee status through a rigorous vetting process, and due to the 90 day pause in refugee admissions stemming from the executive order, they cannot travel to the United States to reunite with their families. Additional delays in reunification not only affect the immediate well-being of these children but also pose serious long-term consequences for their emotional and cognitive development. The separation of families, particularly unaccompanied minors, is a heartbreaking situation that must be urgently addressed.

The executive order states that the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security are able to make exceptions to this action. Therefore, we strongly urge you to make an exception to the Executive Order to facilitate the reunification of Afghan children with their families. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



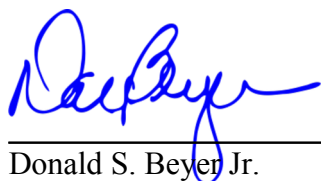
Seth Moulton
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