

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 4, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
National Security Advisor  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Secretary Rubio:

The horrific terror attack in Washington, D.C. the past week that resulted in the shooting of two brave National Guard members demonstrates that it is past time for the United States to revisit the deficiencies of the Biden administration's vetting process for Afghan nationals and remedy the resulting egregious security threats such a process created in the United States after the disastrous August 2021 withdrawal. We urge you to take immediate action to prevent future attacks on American servicemen and citizens.

Contrary to the previous administration's assertion that all Afghan nationals were subject to "enhanced vetting," repeated reports by various Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) presented to Congress reveal a different story. A February 2022 Department of War (DoW) OIG report<sup>1</sup> found that Operation Allies Refuge and Operation Allies Welcome did not use all available DoW data to vet Afghan evacuees, including the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS). This database, compiled over the past 20 years, contains tactical data collected on the battlefield in Afghanistan. After an initial review of Afghan Evacuee data with the ABIS database, the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) found that at least 50 individuals had "potentially significant security concerns." These range from the benign, such as a petty theft from a military base, to the serious, such as fingerprints found on improvised explosive devices. A September 2022 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) OIG report<sup>2</sup> agreed with the DoW report and further found that approximately 31,000 Afghan evacuees were allowed into the country before DHS could form a taskforce to vet and support their resettlement. Congress is further aware of potentially hundreds of evacuees that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has found to have potential links to terrorism after their arrival in the United States.

Repeated requests from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to multiple agencies during the previous administration, including DoW, the National Counterterrorism Center, NGIC, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and FBI for more information about these individuals and what risks – if any – their presence inside this country poses to public security have gone largely unanswered. Four years

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of War Inspector General. *Evaluation of the Screening of Displaced Persons from Afghanistan*. DoDIG-2022-065. February 15, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General. *The DHS Unified Coordination Group for Operation Allies Welcome Coordinated Afghan Resettlement but Faced Challenges in Funding and Authority*. OIG-22-78. September 29, 2022.

after the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan, it is still unclear to what extent the Intelligence Community (IC) or law enforcement authorities are monitoring or tracking these individuals. Therefore, we respectfully request that you instruct DHS, DoW, and the IC to:

- Implement the vetting procedures recommended by the 2022 DoW OIG report in their entirety for all Afghan evacuees currently in the United States;
- Identify and locate those evacuees discovered to have significant security concerns; and
- Seek immediate removal of such evacuees from the United States back to Afghanistan or other third countries, as appropriate.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator

CC: DNI Tulsi Gabbard; Secretary of War Pete Hegseth; Attorney General Pam Bondi; D/FBI Kash Patel