

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

CC: Hon. Shaun Donovan, Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to respectfully urge you to request a budget anomaly from Congress to extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program for the duration of any Continuing Resolution that may be needed at the end of Fiscal Year 2014.

As you know, the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program provides visas to Afghans who courageously risked their personal safety and the safety of their loved ones to assist the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. The State Department has now run out of these visas, which will result in these brave Afghans waiting under threat unnecessarily for additional months, unless Congress and the Administration take action.

To help address this shortfall, the Senate Armed Services Committee inserted language into the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act that, when enacted, will extend this critical program and authorize an additional 4,000 visas for Fiscal Year 2015. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that Congress will pass this legislation until later this year, after the end of the 2014 Fiscal Year.

That is why we urge you to request a budget anomaly and advocate for its inclusion in a Continuing Resolution for FY2014, which will bridge the gap between FY2014 and FY2015 and allow this important program to remain operational until the Defense Authorization bill becomes law.

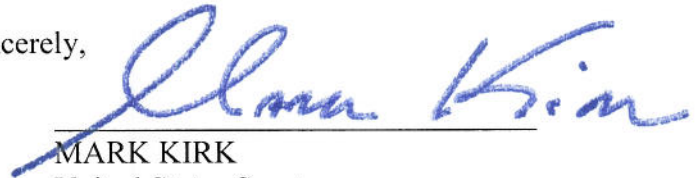
Continued support of the Special Immigrant Visa program in Afghanistan fulfills our moral obligation to the brave men and women who assisted our efforts, and we look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator

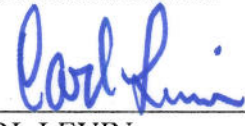
Sincerely,

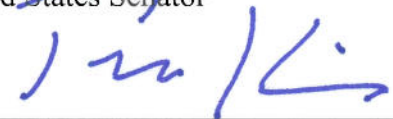


MARK KIRK
United States Senator

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RICHARD DURBIN
United States Senator

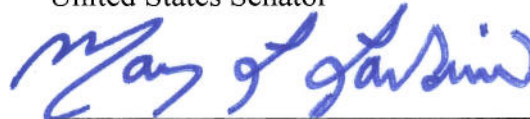

CARL LEVIN
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