



HEADQUARTERS
United States Forces-Afghanistan
Kabul, Afghanistan
APO AE 09366

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman, Armed Services Committee
United States Senate
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing you to express my strongest support for the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program.

Since our arrival in Afghanistan, U.S. Forces have relied upon our Afghan partners, especially our linguists, to perform our mission. They have consistently been there with us through the most harrowing ordeals, never wavering in their support for our soldiers, our mission, and their own country. Many have been injured or killed in the line of duty.

Unfortunately, their support of our mission has resulted in our Afghan partners facing threats from insurgent groups throughout the country. They frequently live in fear that they or their families will be targeted for kidnappings and death. Many have suffered this fate already. The SIV program offers hope that their sacrifices on our behalf will not be forgotten.

After several ups and downs, the program remains an extremely important way for the United States to protect those who assisted us. By December 2014, the Department of State had issued all 4,000 Afghan SIVs allocated under the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. As you know, the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act provides 4,000 additional SIVs for Afghan applicants. The State Department's Status of Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program report in April 2015 shows there are more than 8,000 SIV applications that have been submitted. Each week, I receive several personal requests and inquiries from linguists and others who have worked with, or continue to work with, U.S. Forces, seeking assistance with the Afghan SIV program. I inform them how we are working closely with Congress to obtain adequate SIV allocations each year. This shows just how important this program remains to our Afghan partners, as well our own forces.

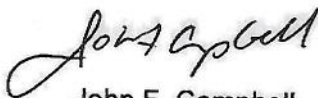
Since I assumed command of the Resolute Support Mission/U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, much has changed and the Afghan National Defense Security Forces (ANDSF) are in the lead to secure the country. We have a willing and strategic partner whose interests are aligned with our own. The ANDSF is taking the fight to the enemy this fighting season and are performing well. Our prospects for long-term success and a strategic partner have never been better. We would not be in this position without the support

and leadership of the U.S. Congress, the American people, the men and women who have served here with distinction, and our Afghan partners.

I urge Congress to ensure that continuation of the SIV program remains a prominent part of any future legislation on our efforts in Afghanistan. This program is crucial to our ability to protect those who have helped us so much.

Thank you for your support for America's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John F. Campbell
General, U.S. Army
Commanding