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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

January 7, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
Department of Defense

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

I've consistently raised concerns about the Biden administration's failure to vet Afghan evacuees and the Biden Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) improper classification of data relating to the assessments and investigations of these individuals.¹ Unfortunately, we have recently seen that the Biden administration's vetting failures continue to pose serious consequences for the American people.

On November 25, 2025, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) investigators arrested Mohammad Dawood Alokozay, an Afghan national located in Fort Worth, Texas, for allegedly making

¹Senator Charles E. Grassley, Justice Department Watchdog *Confirms Grassley Oversight: Biden-Harris Gave Suspected Terrorists Protected Status through Afghan Evacuee Program*, News Releases (June 10, 2025), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/rep/releases/justice-department-watchdog-confirms-grassley-oversight-biden-harris-gave-suspected-terrorists-protected-status-through-afghan-evacuee-program>; Letter from Senator Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, to the Honorable Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Mar. 11, 2025), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley-to-fbi-tawhedi-afghan-evacuee-follow-up.pdf>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Watchdog Report Corroborates Grassley Oversight of DHS, FBI Failures to Properly Vet Afghan Evacuees*, News Releases (July 1, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/watchdog-report-corroborates-grassley-oversight-of-dhs-fbi-failures-to-properly-vet-afghan-evacuees#:~:text=Watchdog%20Report%20Corroborates%20Grassley%20Oversight%20of%20DHS,%20FBI>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley & Judiciary Committee Colleagues Introduce Bill to Protect Afghan Allies*, News Releases (July 21, 2023), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-and-judiciary-committee-colleagues-introduce-bill-to-protect-afghan-allies>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Joins Thune, Risch, Colleagues to Introduce Bill to Release Afghanistan Dissent Cable*, News Releases (May 12, 2023), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-joins-thune-risch-colleagues-to-introduce-bill-to-release-afghanistan-dissent-cable>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Americans Deserve to Know How FBI Is Addressing Afghan Evacuee Vetting Failures*, News Releases (Sep. 21, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-americans-deserve-to-know-how-fbi-is-addressing-afghan-evacuee-vetting-failures>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Statement on DHS Inspector General Finding Deficiencies with Vetting of Afghan Parolees*, News Releases (Sep. 7, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-statement-on-dhs-inspector-general-finding-deficiencies-with-vetting-of-afghan-parolees>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Senators Seek Transparency on Flagged Afghan Evacuees Amid Ongoing Concerns of Vetting, Security Failures*, News Releases (Aug. 22, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/senators-seek-transparency-on-flagged-afghan-evacuees-amid-ongoing-concerns-of-vetting-security-failures>; Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, 117th Cong. (2022), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/08/04/2022/oversight-of-the-federal-bureau-of-investigation>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Statement at FBI Oversight Hearing – Prepared Opening Statement by Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa*, Remarks (Aug. 4, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-statement-at-fbi-oversight-hearing>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley, Portman, Inhofe Demand Update from FBI on Afghan Evacuees Flagged for Security Concerns, Denounce DHS' Continued Failure to Use All Vetting Tools*, News Releases (May 27, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-portman-inhofe-demand-update-from-fbi-on-afghan-evacuees-flagged-for-security-concerns-denounce-dhs-continued-failure-to-use-all-vetting-tools>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Statement on Watchdog Warnings about Deficient Vetting of Afghan Evacuees*, News Releases (Feb. 17, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-statement-on-watchdog-warnings-about-deficient-vetting-of-afghan-evacuees>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Portman, Grassley, Shelby, Risch, Inhofe & Capito Request Biden Administration Provide Overdue Report on Composition & Vetting of Afghan Evacuees*, News Releases (Dec. 22, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/portman-grassley-shelby-risch-inhofe-and-capito-request-biden-administration-provide-overdue-report-on-composition-vetting-of-afghan-evacuees>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *State Dept. AWOL as Americans, Allies Remain Stranded in Afghanistan*, Remarks (Oct. 28, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/state-dept-awol-as-americans-allies-remain-stranded-in-afghanistan>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley on Afghanistan Collapse through the Lens of the Inspector General – Prepared Floor Remarks by U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa*, Remarks (Sep. 27, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-on-afghanistan-collapse-through-the-lens-of-the-inspector-general>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Presses Justice Dept., FBI on Terrorist Travel after Afghanistan Withdrawal*, News Releases (Sep. 27, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-presses-justice-dept-fbi-on-terrorist-travel-after-afghanistan-withdrawal>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley on President Biden's Afghanistan Failures – Prepared Floor Remarks by U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa*, Remarks (Sep. 15, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-on-president-bidens-afghanistan-failures>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley to Biden Admin: Don't Let Bad Actors Take Advantage of Chaotic Afghanistan Withdrawal*, News Releases (Aug. 31, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-to-biden-admin-dont-let-bad-actors-take-advantage-of-chaotic-afghanistan-withdrawal>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Statement on Afghanistan*, News Releases (Aug. 26, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-statement-on-afghanistan>.

social media posts about performing terroristic style attacks against U.S. citizens.² According to the Department of Justice (DOJ), Alokozay, posted videos to TikTok, X, and Facebook, threatening to “build a bomb, conduct a suicide attack, and kill Americans and others.”³ Further, according to DOJ, Alokozay stated the “Taliban were dear to him and that he came to the United States to kill” two men he was speaking with on a video call.⁴ Reporting indicates that Alokozay was admitted to the United States on September 7, 2022, as part of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW).⁵

Then, on November 26, 2025, Rahmanullah Lakanwal, an Afghan national located in Bellingham, Washington, was arrested for shooting two West Virginia National Guard members, Specialist Sarah Beckstrom and Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe, in Washington, DC.⁶ Sadly, Specialist Beckstrom passed away.⁷ Reporting indicates that Lakanwal “fought in the late days of the U.S. war in Afghanistan as part of a ‘Zero Unit,’ a paramilitary force that worked with the [Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)], according to a person briefed on the investigation and an Afghan intelligence officer familiar with the matter.”⁸ This was confirmed by CIA Director John Ratcliffe, stating that Lakanwal was admitted to the U.S. “due to his prior work with the U.S. Government, including CIA.”⁹ According to DHS Secretary Noem, Lakanwal was admitted to the United States on September 8, 2021, as part of OAW.¹⁰ Additionally, according to records obtained by my office, on October 14, 2021, U.S. Embassy Kabul certified that Lakanwal “worked for the U.S. Government Department of State Annex, Afghanistan since 26-Nov-2011.”¹¹ A Biden administration human resources representative at the Kabul Annex also provided a letter of recommendation for Lakanwal’s inclusion in the “DOS Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program,” which stated “I am confident that Rahmanullah poses no threat to the national security of the United States.”¹²

Lastly, on December 3, 2025, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials arrested Jaan Shah Safi, an Afghan national located in Waynesboro, Virginia, for allegedly providing support to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan (ISIS-K).¹³ According to DHS, Safi also provided “weapons to his father who is a commander of a militia group in Afghanistan.”¹⁴ Safi, according to DHS, was admitted to the United States on September 8, 2021, as part of OAW.¹⁵

² Luke Barr and Ivan Pereira, *Afghan national arrested over alleged bomb threat in Texas: DHS* (Dec. 2, 2025), ABC News, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/afghan-national-arrested-alleged-bomb-threat-texas-dhs/story?id=127969689>.

³ Press Release, Department of Justice, *Afghan Citizen Federally Charged for Posting Threats to Build Bomb and Kill Americans* (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/afghan-citizen-federally-charged-posting-threats-build-bomb-and-kill-americans>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Steven Ardary and Vania Castillo, *DHS: Afghan TikTok user suggested he was building bomb targeting Fort Worth* (Nov. 29, 2025), Fox4 KDFW, <https://www.fox4news.com/news/afghan-tiktok-arrest-bomb-fort-worth-mohammad-alokozay>.

⁶ Jack Date, Luke Barr, and Bill Hutchison, *Suspect in DC shooting of 2 National Guard members formally charged with murder* (Dec. 2, 2025), ABC News, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/suspect-dc-shooting-2-national-guard-members-formally/story?id=128047008>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Julian E. Barnes, Hamed Aleaziz, Elian Peltier and Safiullah Padshah, *D.C. Shooting Suspect ‘Could Not Tolerate’ the Violence of His C.I.A.-Backed Unit in Afghanistan, a Childhood Friend Said* (Nov. 27, 2025), NEW YORK TIMES, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/27/us/national-guard-dc-shooting-suspect-cia-afghanistan.html>.

⁹ Brian Mann, *Afghan suspect in D.C. National Guard attack appeared to suffer personal crisis* (Dec. 1, 2025), NPR, <https://www.npr.org/2025/12/01/nx-s1-5627109/afghan-dc-national-guard-attack-rahmanullah-lakanwal>.

¹⁰ Press Release, Department of Homeland Security, *Terrorist Who Shot Two National Guard Members in D.C. Was Let into the Country by the Biden Administration’s Operation Allies Welcome Program* (Nov. 26, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/11/26/terrorist-who-shot-two-national-guard-members-dc-was-let-country-biden>.

¹¹ Exhibit 1.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Department of Homeland Security, *Miles from Nation’s Capital, ICE Arrests ISIS-K Afghan Terrorist Who Was Released into the U.S. Under Biden’s Operation Allies Welcome* (Dec. 3, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/12/03/miles-nations-capital-ice-arrests-isis-k-afghan-terrorist-who-was-released-us-under#:~:text=On%20November%2025%2C%20one%20day,threats%20in%20Fort%20Worth%2C%20Texas>.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

So that Congress may conduct objective and independent oversight concerning your agency's efforts to protect the American people from potential security concerns because of the Biden-Harris administration's failure to properly vet Afghan evacuees, provide answers to the following no later than January 21, 2026:

1. Did your agency assess, vet, or investigate Alokozay, Lakanwal, or Safi before and/or after their entry into the United States? If yes, provide a detailed description, including all dates and locations of contact, interviews, entry, review, and all related records.¹⁶ In your answer, list each database the government used to assess, vet, and investigate Alokozay, Lakanwal, or Safi prior to or after their entry into the United States.
2. Provide all records, including all communications, between your agency and any other federal agency regarding Alokozay, Lakanwal, and Safi.
3. Did Alokozay, Lakanwal, and Safi provide material support to, contract with, or work for the Department of Defense (DOD)? If yes, what steps were taken to vet and investigate each individual prior to the relationship and before entering the U.S.? Provide all records.
4. Were Alokozay, Lakanwal, and Safi vetted against all DOD databases, to include tactical databases, prior to their entry into the United States? Regarding any recurrent vetting, answer the same. List each database.

In keeping with the requirements of Executive Order 13526, if any of the responsive documents do contain classified information, please segregate all unclassified material within the classified documents, provide all unclassified information directly to me, and provide a classified addendum to the Office of Senate Security. Although the Committee complies with all laws and regulations governing the handling of classified information, it is not bound, absent its prior agreement, by any handling restrictions.

Thank you for your prompt review and response. If you have any questions, please contact Tucker Akin with my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

¹⁶ "Records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).

EXHIBIT 1

AUTHORIZED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE BY CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY



Embassy of the United States of America

14-Oct-2021

USCIS/Nebraska Service Center
P.O. Box 87360
Lincoln, NE 68501-2532

Verification of work for the U.S. Government at Department of State Annex, Afghanistan
for: Rahmanullah, son of [REDACTED]

This letter serves as certification and proof that Rahmanullah, son of [REDACTED], has worked for the U.S. Government at Department of State (DOS) Annex, Afghanistan since 26-Nov-2011. Since beginning work for the U.S. Government at DOS Annex, Rahmanullah has served as a Security Officer.

Please note that this letter serves to provide verification of work only, and does not constitute a recommendation by the DOS Annex for a visa. If appropriate, a separate letter of recommendation will accompany this letter.

Name: Rahmanullah
Father's Name: [REDACTED]
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Taskera Number: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: 0038
Job Title: Security Officer
Job Location: Annex
Start Date: 26-Nov-2011
End Date: 31-Aug-2021

I certify that Rahmanullah remains in good standing at DOS Annex, Afghanistan.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kabul Annex Human Resources Representative
U.S. Embassy Kabul Annex
[REDACTED]@state.gov



EXHIBIT 1

AUTHORIZED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE BY CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY



Embassy of the United States of America

14-Oct-2021

USCIS/Nebraska Service Center
P.O. Box 87360
Lincoln, NE 68501-2532

Letter of Recommendation for: Rahmanullah _____, son of _____

As of 14-Oct-2021 _____ Department _____ (DOS) Annex recommends _____, son of _____, for the DOS Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. Due to his work for the U.S. Government at DOS Annex, he has been the target of threats on his life. Because of these threats, DOS Annex and Rahmanullah _____ himself fear for his life, especially as U.S. troops start to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Rahmanullah _____ has provided faithful and valuable service to the U.S. Government at DOS Annex since 26-Nov-2011 and has faced significant threat to himself and his family as a result of his dedication to DOS Annex and the U.S. Government's mission in Afghanistan. His contributions to the mission have no doubt benefited U.S. Government interests and national security. I am confident that Rahmanullah _____ poses no threat to the national security of the United States.

_____ I represent our organization with regard to all of our SIV applications. I verify, on behalf of our organization, the accuracy of the information pertaining to Rahmanullah _____, principal applicant's work for the U.S. Government at DOS Annex, and the description of his service to this organization. If further information is required about Rahmanullah _____'s work for the U.S. Government at DOS Annex, please contact me at _____/@state_____. Our office only communicates via electronic means in order to maintain a written record of all correspondence pertaining to this application.

Kabul Annex Human Resources Representative
U.S. Embassy Kabul Annex
_____/@state_____

