

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 10, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520-0099

Dear Secretary Blinken,

I have yet to receive a reply to my letter sent to the State Department on August 25, 2021, regarding the evacuation of Special Immigrant Visa applicants, American Citizens, and Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) from Afghanistan. I remain deeply concerned for the safety of Americans and allies still stranded in Afghanistan due to the State Department's lack of adequate planning and inability to evacuate them to safety. The actions, or lack thereof, taken by your department in this situation are inconsistent with the values we as Americans hold dear, and I demand that more be done to ensure the safety of Americans and allies still in country.

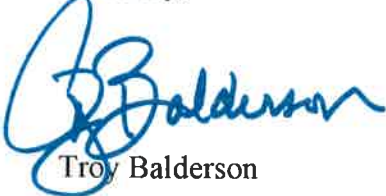
As I stated in my previous letter, my office and I continue to communicate directly with those stranded on the ground in Afghanistan and their worried loved ones at home. President Biden's goal of ensuring all Americans and allies are evacuated out of Taliban controlled Afghanistan by the August 31 deadline has clearly failed, but I still have questions related to the safety of those the Administration has left behind:

1. Once again, how many people you are tracking who need evacuated? These numbers should include Afghan partners who are visa applicants and can be processed in a safe location outside of Afghanistan while the vetting process is conducted.
  - a. How many AMCITs remain?
  - b. How many LPRs remain?
  - c. How many SIV applicants remain?
2. On August 25, 2021, Secretary Blinken, you stated that the number of AMCITs actively seeking assistance to leave Afghanistan is significantly lower than 1,000. However, you also acknowledged that because Americans living or traveling abroad are encouraged, but not required, to register with the nearest US Embassy, it is difficult to pinpoint the exact number. How is the State Department coordinating with American citizens that remain in Afghanistan after August 31, 2021 and what is being done to provide for safe evacuation?

3. What is your department's plan moving forward to ensure that as many individuals are evacuated as safely as possible from Afghanistan now that the situation on the ground has changed?
- a. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 news broke that the Taliban had allowed 200 foreign nationals to board a flight bound for Doha, Qatar. While I am appalled at the fact that we are allowing the Taliban to dictate our foreign policy, can we expect these flights to continue with Americans and SIV applicants on board?
  - b. As it was not completed by the August 31 deadline, when will the full evacuation of all qualified visa applicants and Americans, who wish to leave, be completed?
  - c. Was a flight manifest given to the Taliban beforehand, and do we know if all the people on the manifest were evacuated?
  - d. Is the State Department suggesting that people still trapped in country attempt to work with the Taliban on future flights?

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Troy Balderson

Member of Congress