

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Ranking Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 21, 2022

Dear Chairman Meeks, Ranking Member McCaul, and Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee,

We, the undersigned organizations strongly believe that the American people deserve a transparent and robust investigation into the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan, the emergency evacuation that followed it, and the instability that ensued as a result. It has been nearly 10 months since the last US military personnel left Afghanistan. More than 700 Americans, thousands of Legal Permanent Residents, and tens of thousands of vulnerable Afghan partners and allies were left behind in a country now controlled by the Taliban.

While we are grateful that the Administration provided some classified briefings to Congress last week on the withdrawal, we believe that the situation in Afghanistan is worthy of greater focus and enhanced transparency for the American public, particularly American veterans and the family members of the more than 2,000 American soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan, including the 13 servicemembers who gave the ultimate sacrifice aiding the evacuation from Kabul.

While we fully understand that some aspects of these briefings must be classified to protect sensitive information, we are also fully aware that much of the outstanding answers to fundamental questions about the withdrawal are not classified.

Therefore, we call on the Administration and Congress to hold a series of open hearings on this issue. The American people deserve answers about what happened in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Daniel Elkins
Chief Executive Officer
Special Operations Association of America

Scott Mann
Founder
Task Force Pineapple

Sarah Verardo
Chief Executive Officer
The Independence Fund

Tim Kennedy
President of the Board
Save Our Allies

David "Mike" Edwards
Founder
Project Exodus Relief

Travis Peterson
Executive Director
Moral Compass Federation

Mr. Stacy Gentile (DUKE)
Director
Operation North Star

Ben Owen
President
Flanders Fields

Catalina Gasper
Founder
Task Force Diablo

Jason Beardsley
Executive Director
Association of the United States Navy

Ernest Nisperos
Executive Director
Heart of an Ace Inc

Thomas Kasza
Executive Director
Team 11

Archbishop Robert Gosselin
General Secretary
Continuing Evangelical Episcopal Communion

James Young
President
Freedom Bird Foundation

David Hicks
Chief Executive Officer
Operation Sacred Promise Foundation

Anna Lloyd
Executive Director
Task Force Argo

Jon Collette
President
Operation Recovery

Joshua Jenkins
Director of Operations
Amplio Foundation