

Dear _____

I am a member of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Vienna, VA. We assisted two families of Afghan evacuees for the past two years as they resettled here, and we expect another Afghan family to join us soon. For longer-term stability, these refugees, and so many others, need Congressional support for economic benefits and incentives as well as a path to legalization of immigration status.

Since the November Continuing Resolution did not include funding for key refugee programs, we urge you to take appropriate action as soon as possible to fund these programs in a supplemental spending package, including retroactive authorization for Afghan humanitarian parolees who arrived after September 30th to be eligible for full refugee resettlement benefits, as well as funding for international assistance to refugees, housing assistance, and strengthened protections for unaccompanied children and their families.

Welcoming newcomers is part of what makes this country and our community strong. We need to keep our promise to ensure a successful resettlement in the US for Afghan refugees. Thank you.