

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US; including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester



The Secretary's House and Senate Briefings on Afghanistan

August 20, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(b)(5)

Tab I

Opening Statement

(Insert the Secretary's statement)

Tab II

Senate	
Majority	
<p>Chuck Schumer (D-NY)</p> <p>Senate Majority Leader</p> <p>[<i>Chuck SHOO-mer</i>]</p>	<p>(b)(5)</p> <p>d</p> <p>(b)(5)</p> <p>(b)(5)</p>

<p>Dick Durbin (D-IL)</p> <p>Majority Whip, SACFO</p> <p><i>[Dick -DER-bin]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
	<p>(b)(5)</p>

<p>Bob Menendez (D-NJ)</p> <p>Chairman, SFRC</p> <p>[<i>Bob Muh-NEN-dez</i>]</p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
	<p>(b)(5)</p>

	(b)(5)
<p>Ben Cardin (D-MD)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Ben CAR-din]</i></p>	

Jeanne Shaheen
(D-NH)

SFRC, SACFO, SASC

[Jeen Shuh-HEEN]

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	(b)(5)
<p>Patrick Leahy (D-VT)</p> <p>SACFO</p> <p><i>[PA-truk LAY-hee]</i></p>	

<p>Chris Murphy (D-CT)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Kris MER-fee]</i></p>	(b)(5)
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	(b)(5)

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	(b)(5)

<p>Tim Kaine (D-VA)</p> <p>SFRC, SASC</p> <p><i>[Tim Kayn]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Chris Coons (D-DE)</p> <p>SFRC, SACFO</p> <p><i>[Kris Koons]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Ed Markey (D-MA)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Ed MAR-key]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>

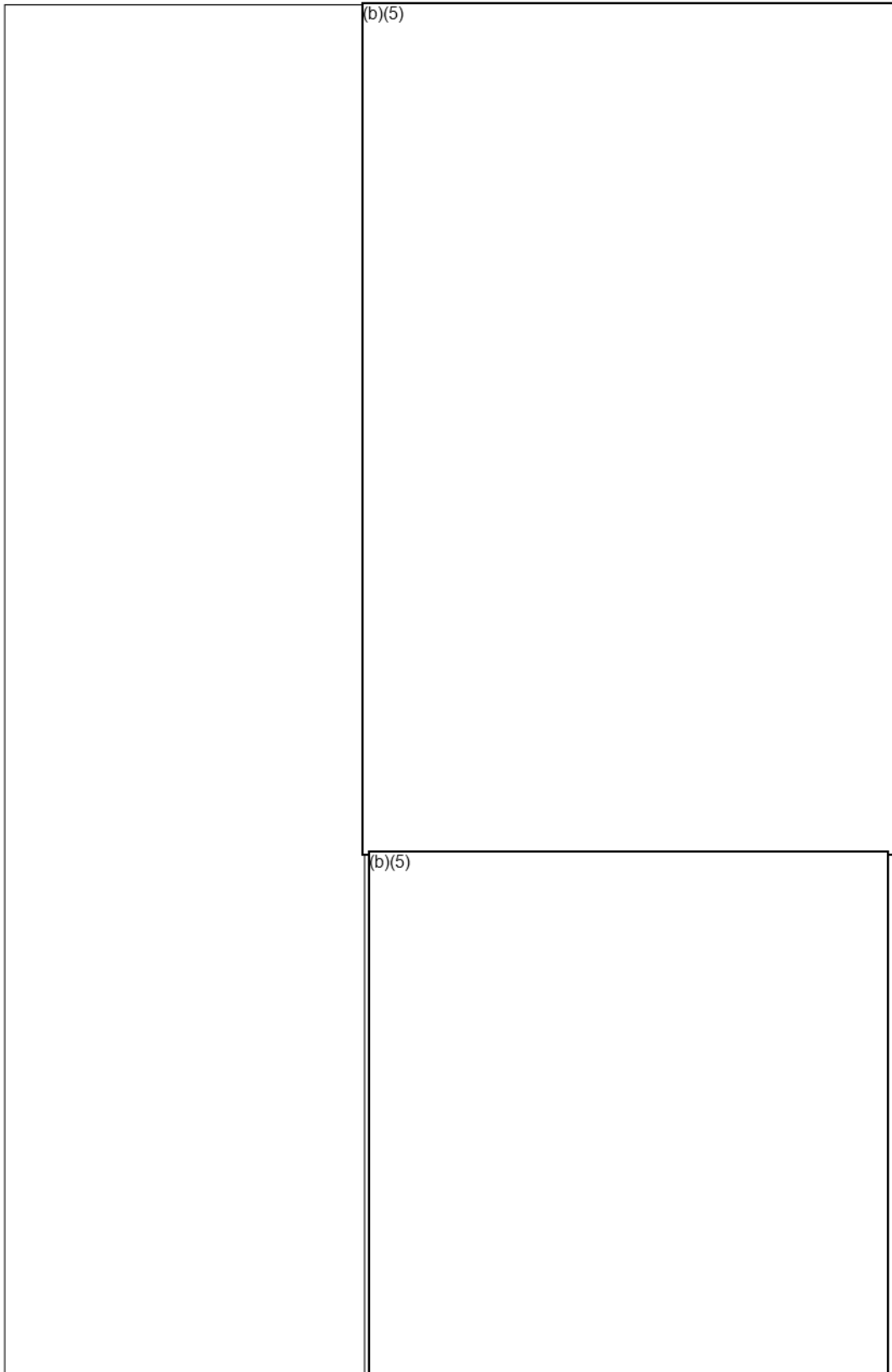
	(b)(5)
<p>Brian Schatz (D-HI)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Bri-an Shats]</i></p>	(b)(5)
<p>Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)</p> <p>SACFO</p> <p><i>[Kris Van-HOH-len]</i></p>	

<p>Mark Warner (D-VA)</p> <p>Chairman, SSCI</p> <p><i>[Mark WAR-ner]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Patty Murray (D-WA)</p> <p>Assistant Democratic Leader</p> <p><i>[Pat-ti MURR-ee]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>

<p>Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)</p> <p>Chair, Democratic Steering Committee</p> <p><i>[EY-miy KLOH-boo-shar]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Bernie Sanders (D-MN)</p> <p>Chairman of Outreach, Majority</p> <p><i>[BERN-ee SAN-drz]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>

Senate	
Minority	
<p>Mitch McConnell (R-KY)</p> <p>Minority Leader, SACFO</p> <p><i>[Mich Muh-CAH-null]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
	<p>(b)(5)</p>

	(b)(5)
<p>John Thune (R-SD)</p> <p>Minority Whip</p> <p><i>[Jon Thoon]</i></p>	
<p>Rick Scott (R-FL)</p> <p>SASC Chairman, Republican Senatorial Committee</p> <p><i>[Rick Skot]</i></p>	
<p>James Risch (R-ID)</p> <p>Ranking Member, SFRC Full Committee</p> <p><i>[Jaymes Rish]</i></p>	(b)(5)

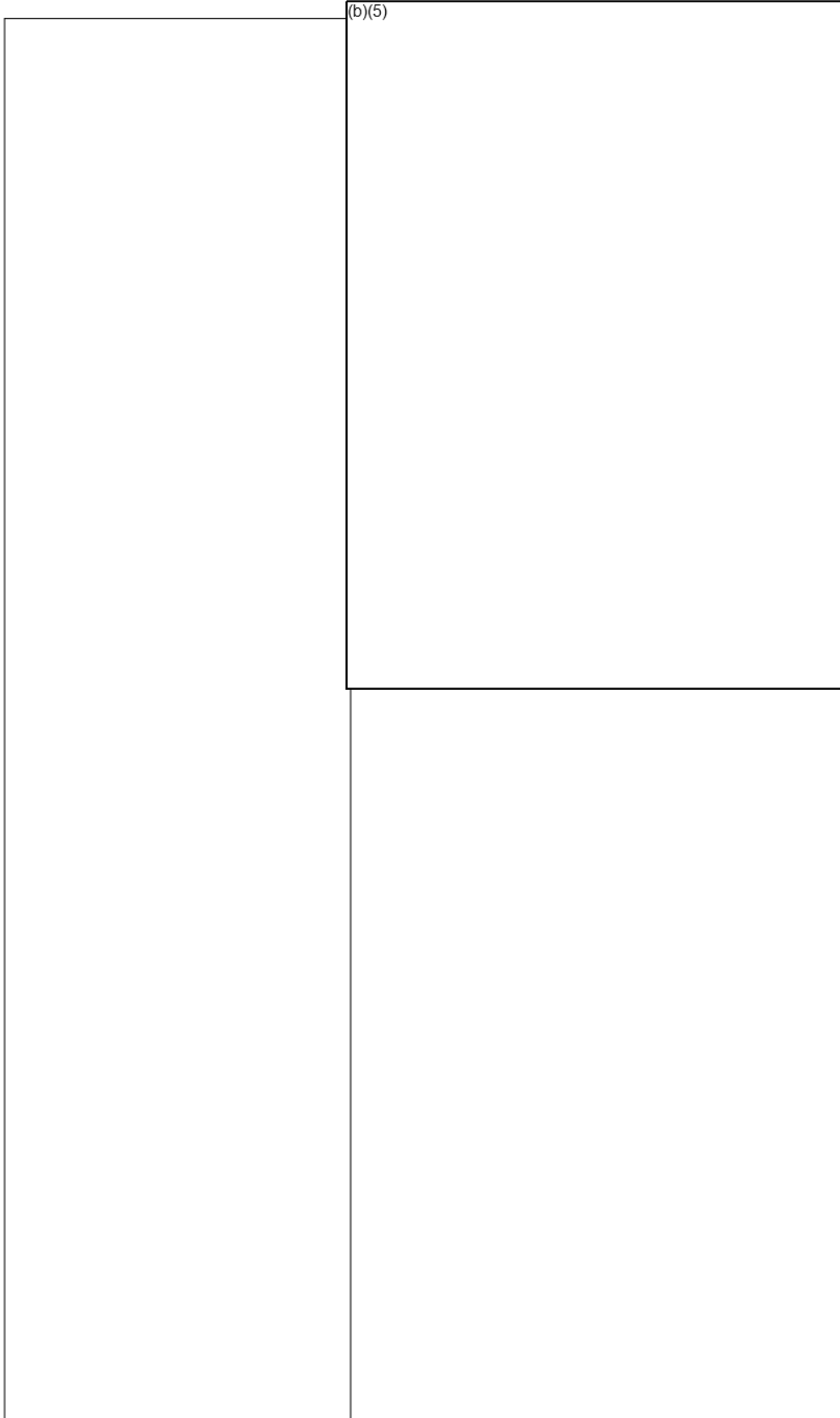


<p>Mitt Romney (R-UT)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Mitt RAAM-nee]</i></p>	(b)(5)
<p>Rob Portman (R-OH)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Raab PORT-min]</i></p>	(b)(5)

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<p>Todd Young (R-IN)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Tawd Yuhng]</i></p>	

<p>Ted Cruz (R-TX)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Ted Crooz]</i></p>	(b)(5)
	(b)(5)



<p>Mike Rounds (R-SD)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Mike Rownds]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
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<p>James Inhofe (R-OK)</p> <p>Ranking Member, SASC</p> <p><i>[Jaymes IN-hoff]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
	<p>(b)(5)</p>

Joni Ernst
(R-IA)

SASC

[Joh-nee Urnst]

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<p>Marco Rubio (R-FL)</p> <p>SFRC, SACFO</p> <p><i>[Mar-co RUU-bee-oh]</i></p>	(b)(5)

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Lindsey Graham
(R-SC)

SACFO

[Lind-zee Gram]

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<p>John Boozman (R-AR)</p> <p>SACFO</p> <p><i>[Jon BOOZ-men]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Jerry Moran (R-KS)</p> <p>SACFO</p> <p><i>[Jerr-ee Morr-AN]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>

<p>Ron Johnson (R-WI)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Ron JON-son]</i></p>	(b)(5)
<p>John Barrasso (R-WY)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Jon Bah-RASS-oh]</i></p>	(b)(5)

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<p>Bill Hagerty (R-TN)</p> <p>SFRC</p> <p><i>[Bill HAH-gher-tee]</i></p>	(b)(5)

	(b)(5)
<p>Dan Sullivan (R-AK)</p> <p>SASC</p> <p><i>[Dan SUH-luh-vn]</i></p>	(b)(5)

House	
Majority	
Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) <i>[NAN-see puh-LOW-see]</i>	(b)(5)

<p>Steny Hoyer (D-MD)</p> <p>House Majority Leader</p> <p><i>[steh-NEE hoy-ur]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Hakeem Jeffries (D-NJ)</p> <p>Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus</p> <p><i>[huh-KEEM JEH-freez]</i></p>	

<p>Stephen Lynch (D-MA)</p> <p>HOGR</p> <p><i>[Stee-vuhn Linch]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Gregory Meeks (D-NY)</p> <p>Chairman, HFAC</p> <p><i>[GREH-gr-ee MEEKS]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>

	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Barbara Lee (D-CA) HACFO <i>[bar-ba-RAH lee]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>

	(b)(5)
<p>Gerald Connolly (D-VA)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[Jer-ald Con-oh-lee]</i></p>	(b)(5)
<p>Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[Kris-see Hoo-luh-han]</i></p>	(b)(5)

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Jason Crow
(D-CO)

HPSCI, HASC

[Jay-sun Kro]

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	(b)(5)
<p>Dean Phillips (D-MN)</p> <p>HFAC</p>	(b)(5)
<p>Sara Jacobs (D-CA)</p> <p>HFAC</p>	

<p>Grace Meng (D-NY) HACFO</p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Ilhan Omar (D-MN) HFAC</p>	
<p>Seth Moulton (D-MA, 6th District) House Budget Committee, House Armed Services Committee, and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee <i>[Seth Mowl·tn]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>

House	
Minority	
<p>Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)</p> <p>Minority Leader</p> <p><i>[keh·vuhn muh·kaar·thee]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
	<p>(b)(5)</p>

	(b)(5)
<p>Steve Scalise (R-LA)</p> <p>Minority Whip</p> <p><i>[Steev Skuh-lees]</i></p>	(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Elise Stefanik
(R-NY)

Republican Conference
Chair

[Uh-leees Ste-faah-nik]

	(b)(5)
<p>Gary Palmer (R-AL)</p> <p>Chair, Republican Policy Committee</p> <p><i>[GER-ee PALL-mer]</i></p>	(b)(5)
<p>Michael McCaul (R-TX)</p> <p>Ranking Member, HFAC Full Committee</p> <p><i>[My-kal Mic-cal]</i></p>	(b)(5)
	(b)(5)

<p>Steve Chabot (R-OH)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[steev SHA-bat]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Joe Wilson (R-SC)</p> <p>Ranking Member, HFAC Middle East Subcommittee</p> <p><i>[jo WILL-suhn]</i></p>	
<p>Darrell Issa (R-CA)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[Dar-al Ice-ah]</i></p>	

<p>Adam Kinzinger (R-IL)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[Adam Kin-zing-er]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Lee Zeldin (R-NY)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[Lee Zel-den]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>
<p>Mark Green (R-TN)</p> <p>Ranking Member, HFAC Western Hemisphere Subcommittee</p> <p><i>[Mark Ghr-een]</i></p>	<p>(b)(5)</p>

	(b)(5)
<p>Andy Barr (R-FL)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[An-dee Bahr]</i></p>	(b)(5)
<p>Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[Ab-ih-gayl SPAN-bur-ger]</i></p>	(b)(5)
<p>Claudia Tenney (R-NY)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[Claudia Ten-ee]</i></p>	(b)(5)

	(b)(5)
<p>Peter Meijer (R-MI)</p> <p>HFAC</p> <p><i>[Peter My-er]</i></p>	(b)(5)
<p>Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)</p> <p>HACFO</p> <p><i>[Jef Four-ten-bear-ey]</i></p>	

Guy Resenthaler
(R-PA)

HACFO

[Guy REH-shen-thaw-lur]

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Tab III

8-19 Afghanistan Omnibus
Table of Contents

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Tab IV

Member	Principal Engagement	Staff Constituent Inquiries
	(b)(5)	
Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)	(b)(5)	
Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL)		
SFRC Chairman Bob Menendez (D-NJ)		
SACFO Chairman Chris Coons (D-DE)		
Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) (SFRC, SACFO)		
Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) (SFRC, SACFO)		
Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV)		
Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)		
	(b)(5)	
Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)		
Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA)		

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)	(b)(5)	
SFRC Ranking Member Jim Risch (R-ID)		
SACFO Ranking Member Lindsey Graham (R-SC)		
SASC Ranking Member Jim Inhofe (R-OK)		
Senator Todd Young (R-IN) (SFRC)		
Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC)	(b)(5)	
Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)		
Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR)		
Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)		
Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)		
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)		
House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD)		(b)(5)
HFAC Chairman Gregory Meeks (D-NY)		
HACFO Chairwoman Barbara Lee (D-CA)		
Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO)		

Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)	(b)(5)
Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY)	
Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)	
Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY)	
Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL)	
Rep. John Larson (D-CT)	(b)(5)
Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)	
House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)	
HFAC Ranking Member Mike McCaul (R-TX)	
HACFO Ranking Member Hal Rogers (R-KY)	
Rep. Bob Good (R-VA)	
Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX)	
Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX)	
Senate-wide Engagement	
SFRC Senior Staff	

	(b)(5)
SACFO Senior Staff	
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Staff	
House-wide Engagement	
HFAC Senior Staff	
HACFO Senior Staff	

Tab V

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 19, 2021
President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500
Dear Mr. President,

From the very beginning, when you announced the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, Members of Congress – along with your top military advisors – advised you that a complete, unconditional U.S. withdrawal would be catastrophic. Now, we have seen what we predicted come to pass. The situation in Afghanistan has gone from bad to worse in a matter of weeks, and we are facing the worst-case scenario – a total Taliban takeover in Afghanistan.

We are extremely concerned that, despite our recommendations, your administration failed to establish a coherent plan to get all American civilians and Afghans who have aided us out of the country as quickly and safely as possible. This must be our top priority. Not only should we protect American citizens in Afghanistan, we must also uphold our promise to the thousands of Afghans who put their lives on the line to work with us to advance our shared security goals. Otherwise, they will face a tragic and deadly fate.

We are particularly perturbed that your administration is failing to guarantee the safety of Americans and our Afghan partners still in the country. Press reports indicate that while American citizens are being urged to make their way to Hamid Karzai International Airport, the United States government cannot guarantee their security, and has offered no support or guidance other than wishing them luck. Furthermore, your administration has articulated that the mission to remove Americans and our Afghan partners from Afghanistan will last until August 31 – without regard to whether all are safely evacuated. Your recent comments that U.S. troops would remain past August 31, if necessary, to ensure the removal of Americans are more reassuring, but we must maintain and project an uncompromising resolve to do whatever it takes to rescue our citizens and Afghan partners.

It is our solemn responsibility to evacuate all American citizens and Afghan partners without respect to arbitrary timelines dictated by the Taliban.

It is our understanding the Taliban has established a barricade around the airport, making it extremely dangerous for many to try and make their way to the airport. It is unacceptable that there is currently no plan or process to safely and securely recover these individuals. We urge you to use whatever means necessary to provide safe and secure passageway through any Taliban barriers for all American citizens and all eligible Afghan partners to appropriate evacuation points and then move them via safe corridors to exit the country.

Thousands of American citizens and Afghan partners are now trying desperately to get out. It would be unconscionable to leave any behind. You must devote all means necessary to ensure every American citizen and all eligible Afghan partners are successfully evacuated. In addition, you must make it clear to the Taliban and every other terrorist group that they will face severe consequences if they attempt to interfere with this process.

Sincerely,

United States Senators

James M. Inhofe
Marsha Blackburn
Shelley Moore
Capito Kevin Cramer
Joni K. Ernst
Deb Fischer
Charles E. Grassley
John Hoeven
James Lankford
Marco Rubio
Rick Scott
Thom Tillis
Pat Toomey
Tommy Tuberville
Roger F. Wicker
John Boozman

**(SBU) U.S. Government Assistance to Support Women and Girls in Afghanistan
December, 2021**

After the events of August 2021 during which the Taliban took over Afghanistan, the U.S. Government’s development priorities in-country have shifted. In compliance with OFAC licenses, the U.S. Government has adjusted to provide immediate assistance to the Afghan people, specifically to meet critical needs as they relate to livelihoods, health, education, and food security. Additionally, USAID and the State Department are continuously monitoring the environment and developing assistance programs beyond critical needs, to be implemented as soon as conditions and the law permit, specifically in support of women’s rights and freedoms. Below is a list of existing ongoing and planned development programs by USAID, DRL, INL, S/GWI and others, as applicable.

(SBU) U.S. Government Support for Women and Girls, Planned and Existing

1. Stop light color (green, yellow)	2. Agency: Program Name *critical needs [livelihoods, health, education, food security]	3. SME (plus: is gender primary or secondary)	4. Ongoing/Planned	5. Program Description, Goals and Objectives (plus: Implementing Partner)	6. Funding (plus: existing or proposed funding)
USAID PROGRAMS					
Green	*USAID/Afghanistan: Strengthening Education in Afghanistan (SEA II)	Education (gender primary)	ongoing: 05/2014-12/2023	The objective of SEA II activity is to improve institutional capacity, operations, management, and programming of educational institutions and civil society organizations in Afghanistan that implement activities in line with higher and basic education needs. SEA II currently focuses on increasing access to education and supporting Afghan women to attend tertiary education programs. A no cost extension has been approved. During the extension period activities will provide scholarships for female students attending private universities and secondary schools. SEA II will also support the establishment of women’s only private school associations, increase the capacity of the staff at girls secondary schools, and support efforts preparing girls for college entrance exams. <i>IP: The Asia Foundation</i>	\$49.8 million <i>(existing funds)</i>
Green	*USAID/Afghanistan:	Education	ongoing: 06/2016 - 03/31/2022	Girls’ Education Challenge (GEC) is a delegated cooperative agreement between USAID and the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The overall objective of the activity is to improve learning opportunities and outcomes for	\$25 million <i>(existing funds)</i>

1. Stop light color (green, yellow)	2. Agency: Program Name *critical needs [livelihoods, health, education, food security]	3. SME (plus: is gender primary or secondary)	4. Ongoing/ Planned	5. Program Description, Goals and Objectives (plus: Implementing Partner)	6. Funding (plus: existing or proposed funding)
	Girls' Education Challenge (GEC)	<i>(gender primary)</i>	<i>(possible no-cost extension)</i>	Afghanistan's marginalized girls. USAID has made a financial contribution of \$25 million to the activity; and FCDO, as the lead donor, has the responsibility of managing this financial contribution pursuant to the terms specified in the agreement. The Leave No Girls Behind component of the project will seek to increase access to quality education for girls. In the first week of November, FCDO received its own policy green light to continue implementation of this program. <i>IP: large consortium led by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). Other partners are Aga Khan Educational Services, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, Afghan Education Production Organization, and Care International.</i>	
Green	*USAID/Afghanistan: Accessible Quality Basic Education	Education <i>(gender secondary)</i>	planned	The proposed name of this activity is the Accessible Quality Basic Education activity. The goal of this activity is to increase equitable access, sustain literacy and numeracy gains, and build resilience through strengthened social and emotional skills. USAID also recognizes that Afghanistan is a fragile state and has based this activity on the Education in Crisis and Conflict framework. Safety is a prerequisite for learning and identified as a critical factor in a family's decision to send its children to school. Therefore, the activity also addresses the need for flexible education programs in conflict and emergency settings and the need for school-based social and emotional learning (SEL) and psychosocial interventions that can impact educational outcomes. A core component of the program was to increase/protect girls' access (lower barriers, better enabling environment, etc.) to education. <i>IP: to be determined</i>	\$48 million <i>(new request)</i>
Yellow - request to be green	*USAID/Afghanistan: Advancing Higher Education for Afghanistan's Development (AHEAD)	Education <i>(gender primary)</i>	paused: (08/05/2020 - 08/04/2025)	This activity can contribute to priorities in Afghanistan in three ways: 1) support rights of girls and women to education; 2) promote policies that are supportive of women in education settings; and 3) mitigate or preempt risks to women due to current gender and cultural norms. AHEAD would focus on private higher education institutions (HEI) in Afghanistan to maintain policies that create conditions at HEIs for safe access to relevant education options for girls and women. Interventions would strengthen HEI systems and operations and alleviate and seek solutions to gender norms and biases that currently restrict women from pursuing higher education. Overall this activity seeks to improve employability of professionally-qualified Afghans by improving HEI instructional,	\$49.9 million <i>(paused)</i>

1. Stop light color (green, yellow)	2. Agency: Program Name *critical needs [livelihoods, health, education, food security]	3. SME (plus: <i>is gender primary or secondary</i>)	4. Ongoing/Planned	5. Program Description, Goals and Objectives (plus: <i>Implementing Partner</i>)	6. Funding (plus: <i>existing or proposed funding</i>)
				research, and private sector collaborative capacity across four key sectors of agriculture, business, education, and health through partnership networks among US and Afghan HEIs. <i>IP: FHI360</i>	
Yellow	*USAID/Afghanistan: Technical Capacity Building for the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)	Education (<i>gender secondary</i>)	ongoing: ending 01/31/2022 (<i>possible no-cost extension</i>)	The current cooperative agreement seeks to enhance the institutional management capacity of AUAF, leading to self-sustainability, and thereby ensuring improved delivery of higher education services to the people of Afghanistan. The objectives are to 1) Provide an effective, secure learning environment; 2) Enhance the quality of AUAF’s academic programs in support of programmatic accreditations; and 3) Increase AUAF’s institutional capacity to independently and effectively manage federal (and other) awards that supports the improved delivery of higher education services. While the primary focus of the program is to provide institutional capacity to AUAF, it also looks at increasing the effectiveness of its approach towards supporting, recruiting, and retaining women. The no-cost extension will allow AUAF to improve its education quality and management capacity as the University tries to gain footing as "university in exile." <i>IP: Direct grant to AUAF</i>	\$18.9 million (<i>existing funds</i>)
Green	USAID/ Afghanistan: Huquq (Safeguarding Civic Rights and Freedoms in Afghanistan)	DRG (<i>gender secondary</i>)	planned	This 2-year activity is currently under procurement and is expected to be awarded by Spring 2022. Huquq (Safeguarding Civic Rights and Freedoms in Afghanistan) will support Afghan journalists, civic actors, and human rights defenders as they strive to connect, network, organize, and acquire the necessary operational capacity in support of basic rights and freedoms. Huquq will also help civic actors adopt innovative initiatives and approaches to promote and defend basic rights and freedoms in Afghanistan’s restrictive environment. Reclaiming women’s space in public life, especially in journalism and civil society, is at the core of all Huquq activities. Aspects of this award will focus on women civil society organizations, female activists, and journalists. <i>IP: to be determined</i>	\$15 million (<i>existing funds</i>)
Green	USAID/Afghanistan: Women’s Scholarship	Gender (<i>gender primary</i>)	ongoing: 09/2018-09/2023	The program supports female students to pursue higher education degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This activity is fully funded. The proceeds from the endowment cover operational costs. The WSE team has set up a remote office in Doha. They are exploring the local context to see if some of our students	\$50 million (<i>existing funds, fully funded</i>)

1. Stop light color (green, yellow)	2. Agency: Program Name *critical needs [livelihoods, health, education, food security]	3. SME (plus: is gender primary or secondary)	4. Ongoing/ Planned	5. Program Description, Goals and Objectives (plus: Implementing Partner)	6. Funding (plus: existing or proposed funding)
	Endowment (WSE)		<i>(planned no-cost extension)</i>	can continue their studies in Afghanistan, while also looking into options to send scholarship beneficiaries to universities in the region. <i>IP: Texas A&M Borlaug Institute</i>	
Requesting Approval: Green	USAID/Afghanistan: UN Women's Women's Protection Centers	Gender <i>(gender primary)</i>	planned	If approved for funding, USAID will provide a new grant to UN Women to respond to the most immediate needs for women and vulnerable populations: protection, women's rights, and livelihoods. USAID is joining efforts with other donors and UN Women to support Women's Protection Centers throughout the country. These efforts complement INL's shelter work to ensure a greater geographical coverage. As per UN Women's model, support would be implemented through local NGOs to provide immediate assistance for Women's Shelters/Protection, Women's Civil Society, and Women's Livelihoods. <i>IP: UN Women</i>	\$13 million <i>(some existing, some new funds)</i>
Green	*USAID/Afghanistan: Rural Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (Ru-WASH)	Health / WASH <i>(gender secondary)</i>	ongoing: 7/2020 - 10/2024	Ru-WASH supports rural communities and civil society organizations to increase access to safe drinking water and community sanitation facilities, and improve hygiene practices in households, schools, and health centers across all 34 provinces. The activity will address: acute water and sanitation needs in underserved, rural areas of Afghanistan; inequitable sanitation facilities for girls and boys in schools; service delivery and operations improvement at the local community level; and reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus in schools and their surrounding catchment communities in high-risk COVID-19 areas. One of the intended outcomes is that 60 model child friendly schools and 50 Health Care Facilities (HCF) would integrate WASH and menstrual hygiene management practices to improve drinking water supply, expand gender-separated toilet facilities, and support the needs of girls and students with disabilities. The program is undergoing revisions to increase and strengthen partnerships with NGOs and communities at a local village level. <i>IP: UNICEF</i>	\$35.8 million <i>(existing funds, partially funded)</i>
Green		Economic Growth	ongoing: 08/01/2018-7/31/2022	After the Taliban takeover, LAMP will continue to sustain livelihoods (jobs) through its three components: High-value vegetable value chains, Livestock and Poultry, and Vocational training. In addition, LAMP will implement the humanitarian emergency	\$9 million

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	*USAID/Afghanistan: Livelihood Advancement for Marginalized Population (LAMP)	<i>(gender secondary)</i>		<p>response through The Winterization Package and The Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance new components.</p> <p>LAMP will continue to focus on livestock (dairy) and poultry (egg) activities that are traditionally women-managed activities and demand limited land usage, with high potential for employment along the value chain. Currently LAMP has 1,000 beneficiaries under this component.</p> <p>On the humanitarian side, the project will seek to provide responsive relief support to those affected by current changes in Afghanistan, increasing access to basic winterization kits and multipurpose cash. The contents of each kit will be decided in consultation with beneficiaries and the Emergency Shelter and NFI cluster, to ensure that they are gender-sensitive and meet the needs of women, men, boys, and girls.</p> <p>The program will prioritize the selection of women and girls and aim to have more than 60% of all LAMP project beneficiaries (3,700) be women and adolescent girls. To best encourage, empower and support women and girls, CARE is committed to delivering awareness-raising and training sessions to target beneficiaries, CARE staff, and sub-contractors in all targeted provinces. The sessions for the beneficiaries will cover topics such as women's rights and roles, women empowerment, and role of male members in women empowerment, gender and gender in Islam, and sexual exploitation and abuse. Moreover, regular visits and feedback will be taken by the female beneficiaries. These sessions cover GBV at the workplace and a refresher on GBV strategy.</p> <p><i>IP: CARE</i></p>	<i>(existing funds, fully funded)</i>
Green	*USAID/Afghanistan: Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Businesses	Economic Growth <i>(gender secondary)</i>	ongoing: 01/28/2020-1/27/2025	<p>After the Taliban takeover, ACEBA must now support carefully targeted businesses in the private sector that can sustain or create livelihoods, as well as SMEs in supply chains essential to maintaining basic living conditions for the local population. ACEBA will retain its carpet, cashmere, and saffron value chains in recognition of their potential for significant employment, especially for women. A sixth value chain will be added for "Humanitarian Goods and Services."</p> <p>Subcontracts will be used to directly implement activities which are ill suited to grant-making, to improve access to basic healthcare services but supporting salaries of critical healthcare workers, especially women.</p>	\$105.7 million <i>(existing funds, partially funded)</i>

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	Activity (ACEBA)			ACEBA can also issue entrepreneurial support grants to equip workers who have lost access to essential tools of their trade so that they may regain livelihoods, or engage in new livelihoods. An example is displaced women that need spindles or looms to engage in spinning and weaving. <i>IP: DAI</i>	
Green	*USAID/Afghanistan: Carpet and Jewelry Value Chains	Economic Growth (<i>gender secondary</i>)	ongoing: 01/31/2019-4/30/2023	The program will continue the support to the beneficiaries, mainly women carpet weavers, bringing capacity building support to carpet producer companies as a mean to maximize livelihood opportunities for women weavers, while reallocating costs currently allocated to export promotion to extend the support to vulnerable weaver households in food security and health (Livelihoods and Humanitarian Support). TMT would channel livelihood support through the immediate access to paid work through Supported Producer Companies. TMT will collect livelihood data from potentially up to 10,000 weavers in the short and medium term. On the humanitarian side, TMT and its subgrantee Label STEP, will use its existing stakeholders to reach beneficiaries. TMT will actively support and contribute to the delivery of food assistance and emergency relief. TMT also plans to extend its health activity, establishing a broader network of women Community Health Workers (CHW) to serve the weaver communities with first level medical contacts. The introduction of the CHW network will be supported by a general practitioner who has been part of STEP's medical services for ten years. <i>IP: Turquoise Mountain Trust</i>	\$10 million (<i>existing funds, fully funded</i>)

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Green	*USAID/Afghanistan: Urban Health Initiative (UHI)	Health (<i>gender secondary</i>)	ongoing: 10/2020-2025	UHI offers an integrated package of health services in five cities—Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar, and Jalalabad—that consists of community and facility-based interventions for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH), family planning (FP), immunization, nutrition, COVID, and tuberculosis (TB) through an integrated and phased <i>nahia</i> (sub-district) approach. Initiatives that focus on women include: – strengthening private sector health facilities capacity in maternal/child health and family planning; – provide community midwifery services, including support for midwifery-led maternity centers; – develop and implement an urban private midwifery model. <i>IP: Jhpiego</i>	\$104 million (<i>existing funds</i>)
Green	*USAID/Afghanistan: Assistance for Families and Indigent Afghans to Thrive (AFIAT)	Health (<i>gender secondary</i>)	ongoing: 07/2020-2025	AFIAT is improving health outcomes in rural and peri-urban areas, specifically for women of childbearing age and children under five years. Focusing on maternal/child health, family planning, reproductive health, tuberculosis, and nutrition, AFIAT provides facility and community based technical assistance. Initiatives that focus on women include: – creation of female health worker corps to fill critical gaps in service provision, for women, at health facilities – strengthen community-based midwifery services and strengthen capacity of community health care workers in maternal and child health – advocate for and strengthen nutrition counseling for maternal and child health (including severe and moderate acute malnutrition treatment) <i>IP: Management Sciences for Health</i>	\$117 million (<i>existing funds</i>)
Green	*USAID/Afghanistan: Sustaining Health	Health (<i>gender secondary</i>)	ongoing: 01/2016-09/2022	SHOPS-Plus is USAID’s flagship initiative in the private sector. In Afghanistan, SHOPS provides financial and technical support to the Afghanistan Social Marketing (ASMO) with the aim of increasing their impact and sustainability. SHOPS promotes family planning, diarrhea prevention and management, and nutrition by distributing associated	\$13.25 million (<i>existing funds</i>)

1. Stop light color (green, yellow)	2. Agency: Program Name *critical needs [livelihoods, health, education, food security]	3. SME (plus: is gender primary or secondary)	4. Ongoing/Planned	5. Program Description, Goals and Objectives (plus: Implementing Partner)	6. Funding (plus: existing or proposed funding)
	Outcomes through the Private Sector-Plus (SHOPS-Plus)			products at an affordable price and by promoting uptake through social and behavior change activities. <i>IP: Abt</i>	
Green	USAID/Afghanistan: Agricultural Marketing Program (AMP)	Agriculture (gender secondary)	ongoing: 01/2020 – 01/2023	AMP will integrate women in all its program activities. For example, AMP will create activities aimed at improving and upgrading women’s capacity in food processing and agricultural sales (i.e. food safety training, promoting improved sorting, grading and packaging, technical and financial support to women involved in food processing and drying, and direct assistance to women-owned agribusinesses). AMP will facilitate women entrepreneurs’ engagement in value-added products and encourage women to participate in all events and activities. AMP will customize in-person and online training to increase women’s capacity as farmers and businesswomen. AMP will support women and youth’s participation in post-harvest processing and expanding domestic market penetration. This will increase the economic viability of women to participate in the sector, create new jobs for women and youth, and expand potential value-chain participation. AMP has assigned female advisors to support women and youth inclusion in the three primary lines of effort: Community-Based Spice Processing; Provision of Vegetable Seed Toolkits; and support for off-season vegetable production. Fruit drying is another opportunity wherein drying is generally done by women and because of our focus on the domestic market this will become more important as opposed to fresh fruit being exported. AMP will now work with smaller trading and processing companies allowing them to work with more female owned companies that have tended to focus on the domestic market. <i>Implementer: Roots of Peace</i>	\$30 million
Green	USAID/Afghanistan: High Value Chain-Livestock (HVC-L)	Agriculture (gender secondary)	ongoing: 06/2018-06/2023	The Women and Youth Integration Plan for AVC-Livestock project has the fundamental purpose of contributing to the advancement of women and youth in agriculture, encouraging and facilitating their integration to the livestock value chains, and for those already participating, upgrade their roles. The project will review and revise each quarter	\$55 million

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				during year 4 to meet the realities on the ground. The Project aims to achieve this through the following strategic pillars: – Gender integration across the project, its subcontractors, Anchor Firms and associated businesses. This refers to the buyer-seller relationships that link suppliers, producers, processors, local traders and exporters. – Facilitation of the vertical integration of women into livestock value chains. Horizontal coordination among female livestock producers, especially those at similar developmental stages is a crucial peer-to-peer learning system. – Promotion of horizontal coordination among women engaged in livestock production. Horizontal coordination among female livestock producers, especially those at similar developmental stages is a crucial peer-to-peer learning system. Self Help Groups and cooperatives will constitute the entry point for this activity, to capitalize on existing social capital and generate momentum. Additionally, AVC-L will require a gender team in subcontracts to ensure that women’s integration is not only in program planning, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation but they also play a role in the conceptualization and oversight of activities implemented by partner organizations. This inclusive approach will enable the program to address gender gaps and constraints that hold women back in the implementation of development programs. <i>IP: DAI</i>	
STATE DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS					
Yellow - request to be green	State/DRL: Salaam Initiative	Peace Process/ Peacebuilding (<i>gender primary</i>)	ongoing: 9/9/2020-9/30/2022	Enhance the capacity of Afghan civil society to protect and advance women’s rights in the context of the peace process. The project has three objectives: (1) Strengthen female civil society leaders’ and community activists’ capacity to design advocacy initiatives that address challenges facing women; (2) Enhance communication and collaboration between female activists and local stakeholders; and (3) Foster robust networks among a broad group of women civil society leaders and government officials. <i>IP: Eurasia Foundation with Afghan Peace House (APH)</i>	\$740,740 (<i>existing FY19</i>) -under DMR review

1. Stop light color (green, yellow)	2. Agency: Program Name *critical needs [livelihoods, health, education, food security]	3. SME (plus: <i>is gender primary or secondary</i>)	4. Ongoing/Planned	5. Program Description, Goals and Objectives (plus: <i>Implementing Partner</i>)	6. Funding (plus: <i>existing or proposed funding</i>)
Green	State/DRL: Emergency Assistance for Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) and Women/Girls at Risk of GBV	WPS, GBV (<i>gender primary</i>)	ongoing	In support of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Act and Department of State WPS Implementation Plan Line of Effort 2 (Protection), assistance protects women and girls from gender-based violence (GBV) in Afghanistan and/or provides temporary assistance to Afghan women and girls who have left Afghanistan for third countries. Support will include emergency assistance to individuals facing extreme threats of GBV, and prevention and protection assistance to victims of GBV and civil society organizations working to address GBV. Assistance will fill gaps identified in collaboration with partners on the ground to support needs including but not limited to: safe houses; support to local organizations; and other emergent needs. A portion of these funds may be used to support rapid response mechanisms for vulnerable women and girls in Afghanistan. <i>IP: Voices Against Violence: The GBV Global Initiative (VAV)</i>	Existing funding will be depleted by March 2022. \$3M FY 2022 and \$3M FY 2023 <i>(proposed funding)</i>
Green	*State/GWI: Education and Leadership Development for Young Women from Conflict Zones to the Asian University for Women Support Foundation	Education (<i>gender primary</i>)	ongoing: 9/25/2017-9/30/2022	S/GWI supports scholarships for young female students from conflict zones across specific countries in Asia, including but limited to Afghanistan, and the Middle East to attend the Asian University for Women (AUW), whose mission is to produce the next generation of women leaders.	\$1,629,228 <i>(total amount for all countries covered)</i>
Green	State/INL: Transitional Houses for Formerly Incarcerated Women	GBV (<i>gender primary</i>)	paused	Previously operated three transitional houses. None are currently operational due to security risks. INL is working with WAW to determine whether we can continue the grant to provide critical services to post-incarcerated women and girls. <i>IP: Women for Afghan Women</i>	~ \$745,000 <i>(total remaining funds)</i>

1. Stop light color (green, yellow)	2. Agency: Program Name *critical needs [livelihoods, health, education, food security]	3. SME (plus: <i>is gender primary or secondary</i>)	4. Ongoing/Planned	5. Program Description, Goals and Objectives (plus: <i>Implementing Partner</i>)	6. Funding (plus: <i>existing or proposed funding</i>)
Green	State/INL: Afghan Women's Shelter Fund (AWSF) IV	GBV and Trafficking in Persons (<i>gender primary</i>)	ongoing	Focus: Women and children who have survived or are at risk of GBV or trafficking in persons. Previously operated 29 facilities in 13 provinces across Afghanistan including women's shelters, family guidance centers, legal aid, and psycho-social counseling services. Programming continues for boy's shelters, and psychosocial services (remotely). All facilities (after August) except three were closed pending the redesign and further assessment of conditions on the ground. Expecting to receive a no-cost-extension proposal through June 2022 which would enable the rebranding process. <i>IP: The Colombo Plan</i>	~ \$745,000 <i>(total remaining funds)</i>
Green	State/INL: Supporting Access to Justice in Afghanistan (SAJA) III	GBV (<i>gender secondary</i>)	ongoing	The program was paused following August 2021. However, elements that deal with capacity building of women's protection centers (WPCs) continue where possible. <i>IP: International Development Law Organization (IDLO)</i>	~ \$18.3 million

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	George, Suzy (b)(6) S_SpecialAssistants <S_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>
CC:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Re: NGO Letter in Support of a U.S. Peacebuilding Strategy for Afghanistan
Date:	Sun, 1 Aug 2021 13:10:36 +0000

Copy, will do. Thanks!

From: George, Suzy (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 8:59:40 AM
To: S_SpecialAssistants <S_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: NGO Letter in Support of a U.S. Peacebuilding Strategy for Afghanistan

Not sure if others at State received this so sharing in case useful to pass along. TY.

From: Megan Corrado (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 2:25 PM
To: Megan Corrado (b)(6)
Subject: NGO Letter in Support of a U.S. Peacebuilding Strategy for Afghanistan

Dear Secretary Blinken and Administrator Power,

The Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP)—the leading nonpartisan global network of 150+ member organizations working in 181 countries to end violent conflict and build sustainable peace—and the 37 undersigned organizations urge the U.S. Department of State and USAID to immediately articulate a comprehensive diplomatic, development, peacebuilding, and humanitarian strategy for Afghanistan. Attached and below please find a letter outlining recommendations for a long-term strategic vision to prevent the increasingly deteriorating security situation from further devolving into intractable violent conflict.

This withdrawal comes at a precarious moment in Afghanistan—one that requires consideration of its implications on the stalled peace process, protection of the tremendous gains of Afghan women, girls, and minorities, and potential humanitarian and refugee crises leading to regional destabilization. We urge you to support efforts to transform the intra-Afghan peace talks from a conversation on shifting the balance of power to a people-focused dialogue on creating durable peace; advance the Women, Peace, and Security and atrocities prevention agendas; protect the lives and livelihoods of Afghan women and girls, youth, minorities, and U.S. partners; provide flexible funding for peacebuilding assistance that complements humanitarian and development efforts; and spearhead efforts to reconfigure the international refugee framework to assist Afghans fleeing violence.

As the clock runs out on the U.S. security presence in Afghanistan, the time is now for the U.S. to articulate a long-term strategy that identifies how sustained U.S. engagement will protect

against protracted violent conflict, a refugee crisis, and regional destabilization, while promoting national security and strategic interests.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss further recommendations to save lives, reduce violence, and promote U.S. interests through our engagement in Afghanistan. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindly,
Megan



Megan E. Corrado

Director, Policy & Advocacy
Alliance for Peacebuilding
1800 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 401

Washington, DC 20036

202.403.9223 * AllianceforPeacebuilding.org

Secretary of State Antony Blinken

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20520

Administrator Samantha Power

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Blinken and Administrator Power,

The Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP)—the leading nonpartisan global network of 140+ member organizations working in 181 countries to end violent conflict and build sustainable peace—and the 37 undersigned organizations urge the United States (U.S.) Department of State and USAID to immediately articulate a comprehensive strategy for Afghanistan given the Biden Administration's announcement of an unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. The strategy must ensure robust and sustainable peacebuilding, development, and diplomatic engagement in Afghanistan to prevent the security situation already under threat from the Taliban from further devolving into intractable violent conflict.

This withdrawal comes at a precarious moment in Afghanistan—one that requires consideration of its implications on the stalled peace process, protection of the tremendous gains of Afghan women, girls, and minorities over the last 20 years, and potential humanitarian and refugee crises leading to regional destabilization. As the number of U.S. troops decreases, violence is significantly increasing. The Taliban attacked and surrounded numerous provincial capitals and seized at least 150 districts. Intelligence reports predict Kabul will fall within six months. If the Taliban controls Afghanistan, they will likely return it to the conditions that originally led to the U.S. intervention. Concurrently, persecuted groups, who lack government protection, are forming militias as the Taliban continues to gain territory.

The end of U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan must honor the enormous sacrifice of blood and treasure made by the U.S. and its international and Afghan partners. However, the U.S. reduced critical leverage by accelerating the troop departure and releasing 5,000 Taliban prisoners into Afghan communities without any vetting or tracking process amid the absence of a ceasefire and a stalled peace process. Yet, options exist for the U.S. to (1) refocus people over power in an inclusive peace process; (2) protect and champion Afghan women and girls; (3) provide humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding assistance to local Afghan civil society; and (4) advance an international protection framework to address the potential refugee crisis. Without immediate action, a return to Taliban rule will have catastrophic consequences for the people of Afghanistan, the region, and the world.

The State Department and USAID must—in coordination with international partners—transform the current intra-Afghan peace talks from a conversation on shifting the balance of power to a people-focused dialogue on creating durable peace. The U.S. and its partners must utilize all available levers of influence to advance the process, but also hold the Taliban to account. The U.S. legitimized the Taliban when it started direct negotiations with them, and it must be

prepared to delegitimize the Taliban if they refuse to commit to a long-term ceasefire and participate in good faith talks. **The U.S. can accomplish this by:**

- Encouraging a multi-stakeholder process through the UN, or other neutral institution, with buy-in from NATO allies, regional neighbors, and other key interested parties.
- Appointing a neutral mediator to prioritize key issues other than power-sharing, such as disarmament, demilitarization, and reintegration and transitional justice.
- Continuing to support the internationally-recognized and constitutionally-elected Afghan government and utilizing all available resources to give it the best negotiating position.
- Working with Afghan and international partners to ensure a long-term ceasefire and violence de-escalation, as well as advancing confidence-building measures, such as a joint de-escalation committee to investigate violence on the ground.
- Pressuring the Qataris to close their local office, should the Doha process continue, if the Taliban refuses to institute a long-term ceasefire and continues to target Afghan civilians.
- Stopping efforts at the UN to de-list Taliban members from the UN Terror List or relax sanctions, adding additional Taliban members to sanctions lists, refusing to release Taliban prisoners, withholding aid, and ensuring the Taliban's international pariah status.

The return of Taliban rule gravely threatens Afghan civilians, especially women and girls. The State Department and USAID must ensure women's meaningful and equal participation in Afghan society and the peace process as required by the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Act of 2017, the 2019 WPS Strategy, and its agency implementation plans. Over the last 20 years, women and girls in Afghanistan have made extraordinary progress after life under the harsh Taliban regime. They are crucial agents of change—as parliamentarians, lawyers, government officials, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs, and peacebuilders. An entire generation has grown up with rights, but the current situation in Afghanistan now threatens this hard-earned progress. Recent violence, particularly targeting women and girls, led to Afghanistan's identification as the second most likely country to experience atrocities. These circumstances could lead to mass femicide of Afghanistan's women and girls. The return of Taliban rule gravely threatens Afghan women and girls, as well as youth, civil society, and minorities such as the Hazaras.

The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act and the WPS Act, as well as President Biden's commitment to a foreign policy centered on the defense of democracy and protection of human rights will face a profound test after the withdrawal. **The U.S. must demonstrate its commitment to the WPS and atrocities prevention agendas and the lives and livelihoods of Afghan women and girls by:**

- Using all available levers of diplomatic and development influence to facilitate women's substantive engagement and the realization of WPS principles and establish an interagency action plan that includes specific, time-bound steps to mitigate rising violence against women and girls, ensure meaningful inclusion in the peace process, and protect, monitor, and preserve the rights of women and girls moving forward.
- Cooperating with international stakeholders, deploy inclusive teams with women and gender specialists, including Afghan women, in their delegations and as envoys to center

women's perspectives in peacebuilding initiatives. Employ a senior gender official in the Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, which holds the rank of Special Envoy or Deputy Assistant Secretary and reports directly to the Secretary of State or White House and provides bi-annual briefings to Congress.

- Working with the UN to provide a neutral oversight mechanism of the peace process with a gender-inclusive team that includes women from the region that speak local languages and understand Afghan culture.
- Pushing all available diplomatic pressure points through multilateral fora and direct engagement to ensure a multi-stakeholder peacebuilding and political process that meaningfully includes local, women-led organizations.
- Ensuring all strategies for U.S. engagement, particularly on the peace process, include a participatory gender analysis, conducted in consultation with Afghan women and girls.
- Calling on the Atrocity Early Warning Task Force to coordinate efforts to prevent atrocities against women, girls, and minorities and seek the release of emergency aid.

The State Department and USAID must ensure assistance and flexible funding for peacebuilding that goes hand-in-hand with humanitarian and development work in Afghanistan. The U.S. should learn from the lessons of the past, maintain strategic support to its Afghan security partners beyond the days of U.S. boots on the ground, and strive for sustainable assistance from international partners. The needs of the Afghan people will only increase as conflict, drought, and COVID-19 exacerbate challenges accessing basic needs and services. The Administration pledged \$300 million in development assistance for Afghanistan, but it remains unclear as to how these funds will be used. The U.S. must ensure that programming and activities are tailored to the local context. Afghan civil society, particularly women- and youth-led organizations, must receive direct, robust funds, and take part in regular dialogue with the U.S. on their short- and long-term development and humanitarian priorities. **The U.S. can accomplish this by:**

- Seeking at least \$1 billion in development, governance, infrastructure, and economic assistance from Congress and \$5 billion for security assistance to fulfill U.S. obligations of its bilateral security agreement with Afghanistan through 2024 and to enable a successful transition, democratic governance, rule of law, a free press, and human rights.
- Creating a long-term framework for investment in direct local peacebuilding and development through the deployment of agile funding streams that require local partnership in the design, implementation, and monitoring processes.
- Ensuring that assistance and funding gets into the hands of local civil society, peacebuilders, and humanitarian workers, especially considering the significant spike in COVID-19 cases amidst the recent uptick in violence in Afghanistan.
- Ensuring that if any U.S. funding to Afghanistan is conditioned on human rights, women's rights, drug or human trafficking, or terrorism allegations, this does not affect funding to or for Afghan civil society, women and girls, religious and ethnic minorities, and peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts.
- Promoting burden-sharing and multilateralism through a new "Friends of Afghanistan" process and by working closely with the UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, foreign governments, philanthropic foundations, and other partners to create a multi-year peace dividend package to stimulate Afghanistan's economy, reduce poverty and unemployment, and create disincentives towards violence and radicalization.

The State Department and USAID must work to prevent a refugee crisis—precipitated by the withdrawal and correlated uptick in violence—that has the potential to exacerbate regional destabilization. Approximately 200,000 civilians in Afghanistan have been displaced internally in 2021, and a spillover of refugees into neighboring Iran and Pakistan is likely to extend to Turkey and the EU. An influx of Afghan refugees across the region may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19 and create a combined migrant and health crisis, in turn undermining the institutions of the EU and its members and strengthening right-wing populism. **The U.S. must reassert “U.S. moral leadership on refugee issues” and spearhead efforts to reconfigure the international framework that deals with Afghan refugees to prevent such a crisis by:**

- Helping to form a global, comprehensive plan to help resettle Afghan refugees, modeling the 1989 Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indochinese Refugees, and following refugee burden-sharing principles enshrined in the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees.
- Supporting regional host countries of Afghan refugees to ensure better conditions.
- Encouraging European states to reassess their policies towards Afghan refugees, suspend deportations, respect their human rights, and provide basic services.
- Pressing Turkey to provide Afghans the same rights as Syrian refugees.
- Increasing the number of available Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) for Afghans, ensuring that Afghans who worked with the U.S. military, government, contractors, and those who received U.S. funds through grants and cooperative agreements, are eligible.
- Creating a fast-track visa and parole program for Afghans facing heightened vulnerability, Afghan women human rights defenders, women leaders with high levels of visibility, and persecuted ethnic minorities.

Failing to accompany the military withdrawal with the aforementioned engagement will not only undo the hard-fought gains made in Afghanistan during the last 20 years, but will also create newfound costs through a security vacuum, the country’s return to an extremist safe haven, a new refugee crisis, and widespread regional and global instability. U.S. disengagement will create space for great power competition with China and Russia and interference by Iran to exert nefarious influence in the region and undermine U.S. strategic and security interests. Preventing these outcomes is more than a moral goal; it will actively promote U.S. national and international security. As the clock runs out on the U.S. security presence in Afghanistan, the time is now for the U.S. to articulate a long-term strategy that identifies how sustained U.S. engagement will protect against protracted violent conflict, a refugee crisis, and regional destabilization, while promoting national security and strategic interests.

Sincerely,

The Alliance for Peacebuilding

The Alliance in Support of the Afghan People (ASAP)

Ayenda Foundation

The Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP)

Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University

Center on Conscience & War

Citizens for Global Solutions

Civilian Peace Service Canada

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

EIHR: The Educators' Institute for Human Rights

Emerita New York University

FHI 360

ForgottenSong

The Fund for Peace

Gender Equality Initiative in International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs, GWU

Generations For Peace

Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security

Grace Initiative Global

Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women

Institute of World Affairs

International Alert

International Center for Religion & Diplomacy

International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

The Lamia Afghan Foundation

MENA YPS Coalition

Mina's List

Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute Foundation, Inc.

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Partnership of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding

Parallel Networks

PartnersGlobal

Pax Christi USA

PRBB Foundation

Romanian Peace Institute — PATRIR

ShelterBox USA

United Nations Association of the National Capital Area

Women's Action for New Directions

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