

HR 4736

Improving Access for Afghan Refugees Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jul 28, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Nov 1, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4736>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (46 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]	D · PA		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Jacobs, Sara [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]	D · CO		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Jul 28, 2021
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-8]	D · PA		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]	D · CO		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Aug 20, 2021
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Aug 20, 2021
Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]	D · CA		Aug 23, 2021
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Aug 24, 2021
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]	D · PA		Aug 24, 2021
Rep. Ross, Deborah K. [D-NC-2]	D · NC		Aug 24, 2021
Rep. Bowman, Jamaal [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Aug 27, 2021
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Aug 27, 2021
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Aug 27, 2021
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Aug 27, 2021
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Aug 27, 2021
Rep. Bourdeaux, Carolyn [D-GA-7]	D · GA		Aug 31, 2021

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Sep 3, 2021
Rep. Mrvan, Frank J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		Sep 3, 2021
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Sep 10, 2021
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Sep 30, 2021
Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5]	D · PA		Mar 2, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 1, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jul 28, 2021)

Improving Access for Afghan Refugees Act

This bill requires the Department of State to provide priority refugee status to eligible habitual residents of Afghanistan.

To be eligible for such priority status, a habitual resident of Afghanistan must also be a national of Afghanistan or stateless. Such an individual shall receive priority refugee status if the individual (1) has suffered persecution or has a well-founded fear of persecution and worked in a specified field that makes the individual a target of persecution on account of race, religion, or other characteristics; (2) was employed for at least one year in Afghanistan by U.S.-based media or nongovernmental entities or an entity that received a contract or grant from the U.S. government; or (3) is the beneficiary of a visa petition sponsored by a relative who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

The State Department may also provide priority status to other groups of individuals who are nationals and residents of Afghanistan.

Certain annual numerical limits on refugee admissions shall not apply to individuals who receive priority status under this bill.

For refugee applications under this bill, the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security shall ensure that all steps in the approval process in the U.S. government's control are completed within six months of an application's submission, with exceptions for cases that need more time to address national security concerns.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Jul 28, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 28, 2021:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H4146)
- **Jul 28, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.