Support the Afghan Adjustment Act

☐ **Write or call your Senior US Senator** with a message supporting the Afghan Adjustment Act
   - If you live in Colorado: Write Michael Bennet or call 202-224-5852
   - If you live outside Colorado: Find your senator’s website, which will have their contact information

☐ **Write or call your Junior US Senator** with a message supporting the Afghan Adjustment Act
   - If you live in Colorado: Write John Hickenlooper or call 202-224-5941
   - If you live outside Colorado: Find your senator’s website, which will have their contact information

☐ **Write or call your US Representative** with a message supporting the Afghan Adjustment Act
   - Find your Representative’s website, which have will have their contact information.

**Background to help you craft your messages of support:**

- The refugee resettlement system is reeling from years of resource cuts and is struggling to meet the unprecedented spike in demand resulting from the evacuation of Afghans from Kabul airport in August 2021.

- A wide variety of groups – including local all-volunteer groups like the Broomfield Resettlement Task Force – and individuals are working hard to support Afghan resettlement.

- The Afghans evacuated include people who supported the US mission in Afghanistan such as interpreters, people who held key positions in government including female judges, and people who were valuable members of an open civil society including teachers. Also evacuated were family members of both US citizens and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, as well as Afghans who could be eligible for SIVs.

- Many of the Afghans evacuated were granted humanitarian parole. This gave most of them two years to stay in the US. To stay longer, they can file for asylum or SIV, but there is a massive backlog and not enough lawyers to assist them. During the chaotic evacuation, many Afghans were advised to destroy documents showing their affiliation with the US so they could make it through the many checkpoints where Taliban were searching for Afghans who supported the US, were in the government, or were contributors to civil society. Now, those documents are needed for asylum or SIV claims.

- Afghans already in the US on March 15, 2020 and who meet other requirements including security checks were granted 18 months of Temporary Protected Status (TPS). This is a help but not enough.

- With the backlog of asylum and SIV applications, lack of legal support, and documents that were destroyed in order to evacuate, many evacuated Afghans will not be able to get asylum or SIV in the time they have left under humanitarian parole and TPS.

- The evacuated Afghans are a fraction of those who tried to get out. Our moral obligation to them goes beyond a harrowing escape from Kabul, a flight to a third county and then later to the US, and two to three years struggle to rebuild their lives here – after which they face being sent back to the Taliban in Afghanistan. They supported us – at grave risk to themselves and their families – and we have a moral obligation to support them.

- The Afghan Adjustment Act would provide a path to permanent legal residence for the Afghans we evacuated and strengthen the refugee resettlement system (which will also benefit refugees expected from Putin’s egregious invasion of Ukraine).