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September 10, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
100 S Washington Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin:

The United States' deadly and chaotic exit from Afghanistan has left a stain on our country for generations. Many Americans have been left behind by the Biden Administration and thousands, if not tens of thousands of our Afghan partners and their families were also abandoned.

Over the last month, I have been contacted by hundreds of Texans who are desperately trying to get friends and family members safely out of the country. While we have been able to help some, many are still trapped. There are reports of several hundred people, including American citizens, who have been waiting over a week for chartered flights to take off from the Mazar-i-Sharif airport.

That includes the family members of several Texans who currently serve in the U.S. military. They have been working night and day to safely evacuate their family members. But their efforts so far have not been successful. These brave men and women have volunteered to risk their lives to protect our country. Yet, now, when they need us the most, the federal government has turned our backs on them. If we abandon the family members of our service men and women in Afghanistan, they will certainly be slaughtered by the Taliban.

I am asking for you to provide me with details of how many U.S. servicemembers have family currently trapped in Afghanistan and what your agencies are doing to secure their evacuation.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress