

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to express our outrage over last week's decision to dismantle the Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts (CARE) as outlined in a Congressional Notification (CN) regarding the reorganization of the State Department.

The CN you sent Congress outlines drastic, short-sighted cuts to the State Department, its staff, and its capacity to advance U.S. interests overseas. One of the most shocking and worrisome cuts is the elimination of CARE. Last Congress, the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts Authorization Act of 2024 (H.R. 8368) passed the House and was signed into law as part of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (H.R. 5009). This provision was not a partisan one. One hundred forty-five House Republicans voted for its stand-alone passage on the House floor, and, in fact, you supported it as a U.S. Senator through the NDAA.

We also would like to draw your attention to the wording of the enacted statute. In Section 7810 of H.R. 5009 (Public Law 118-159), subsection (a) says that "[t]he Secretary shall appoint a Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts..." The authorization of the provision is not a suggestion. By eliminating CARE altogether, you are not only contravening Congress's clearly stated intent to see CARE's work continued, but you are also breaking the law.

On May 21, 2025, during a hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, you were specifically asked about the CARE office, its basis in statute, its continued operations, and the appointment of a Coordinator. In your response, you not only appeared to believe CARE and its functions were housed in the Department of Homeland Security, but you also said that, with regard to the continuation of CARE, "We are going to comply with the statutory requirements." We would remind you, Mr. Secretary, that the statutory requirements you alleged to uphold are in the CARE Authorization Act.

Over the course of our twenty-year mission in Afghanistan, more than 300,000 Afghans worked shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. service members, diplomats, and aid workers. They provided valuable support for the nearly 800,000 U.S. troops who rotated through Afghanistan, serving primarily as translators and informal advisors to U.S. personnel on the ground. Now they are facing brutal, often deadly, Taliban reprisals as a result of their association with the United States. The closure of the CARE office at the State Department and the reported shutdown of Operation Enduring Welcome could deny our closest wartime allies the protection they earned.

This would not only be a stain on our national conscience, but also a betrayal of those who bravely stood alongside U.S. troops.

Mr. Secretary, your decision to eliminate CARE as outlined in last week's CN demonstrates your flagrant disregard for federal law which, unfortunately, has become a hallmark of this Administration. We strongly urge you to immediately reverse course and, as you said yourself, comply with the statutory requirements.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



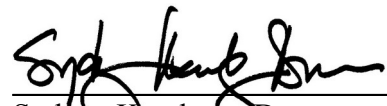
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



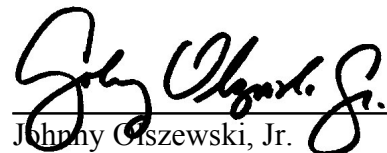
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress