

April 6, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Veterans organization coalition on Afghanistan withdrawal

Dear Mr. President,

We, the undersigned organizations, representing veterans and military families from across the country and the political spectrum, urge you to follow through on the Doha agreement's negotiated May 1st Afghanistan withdrawal deadline to support the safety of our troops, better steward vital American interests, and uphold the will of the American people.

The May 1st deadline to secure the orderly withdrawal of U.S. troops and equipment from Afghanistan presents the best opportunity any president over the past twenty years has faced to end America's longest ever war. Delaying the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan will keep our troops in harm's way and provoke needless further bloodshed, for an unclear mission that is not necessary to keep America and Americans safe. Any realistic further counter-terrorism objectives can be met without ongoing military presence in Afghanistan.

Through their determined efforts in Afghanistan, our troops quickly crippled core al-Qaida, severely punished the Taliban for harboring them, and brought Osama bin Laden to justice. Unfortunately, we have remained in Afghanistan long enough for the children of our first warfighters there to be now eligible to serve in the same conflict as their parents.

Withdrawing from Afghanistan is what the overwhelming majority of the American people have wanted for years. According to [January polling](#), nearly two-thirds of veterans support ending the war in Afghanistan, along with strong majorities of military families and the wider American public. Furthermore, a majority of [everyday Afghans support an end to the fighting](#), and are open to the possible terms of a peace deal, including protections for the rights of Afghan women and girls. As our Commander-in-Chief, you can bring the war in Afghanistan to a close, or prolong the unnecessary loss, sacrifice, and diversion it causes from more important strategic challenges.

As the date of withdrawal fast approaches the United States must also unequivocally and rapidly meet its obligations to the interpreters, translators, and wartime allies who faithfully served the United States over the years. The 17,000 Afghans still remaining in the Special Immigrant Visa pipeline must have the promises made to them by the United States government honored immediately. In addition, the U.S. must continue to exhaust every non-military tool in its diplomatic toolkit in pursuit of human rights security for all Afghans.

On behalf of our membership and veterans across the country who have answered the call to serve our country, we urge you to honor the sacrifices our troops and their families are willing to make

on America's behalf by not asking our women and men in uniform to remain entangled in a conflict with no clear military mission or path to victory.

Our members are proud of their service, but they know it is long past time for America to come home from Afghanistan. We urge you to seize the opportunity to do so as quickly and safely as possible.

Respectfully,

Secure Families Initiative
Common Defense
Concerned Veterans for America
Continue to Serve
Modern Military Association of America
Veterans for American Ideals
Bring Our Troops Home
Association of the United States Navy
High Ground Veterans Advocacy