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NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:

SCRUTINIZE CAREFULLY GENEROSITY TOWARDS AFGHAN REFUGEES.

BACKGROUND. Because of the disastrous Biden Regime withdrawal of military and diplomatic assistance to Afghanistan, millions of Afghan refugees now are fleeing worldwide. The Regime plans to settle thousands of these refugees in states nationwide annually without gaining approval of state officials. Nebraska expected to accept an initial number of 775 refugees. One avenue for this settlement is the Moulton-Bacon Bill, co-sponsored by Cong. Don Bacon.

MOULTON-BACON BILL. HR 5168, known as the WELCOMED Act, is now in the House Judiciary Committee, awaiting a vote to advance it to the full House. Because of this bill, Afghan refugees evacuated and resettled in the U.S.



avoid normally-faced challenges. These Afghans arrived on humanitarian parole or through another expedited process in order to bring them here safely. They are not now eligible for federal benefits normally provided refugees because of their hurried evacuation here. Afghans are not eligible for the reception and placement services that would equip them with the basic money and resources to resettle themselves and their families in the U.S. Under current law, parole designation for Afghans arriving in the U.S. allows beneficiaries to stay and apply for temporary work authorization here, but it does not provide a direct pathway to permanent residency nor access to specific federal programs designed to help refugees integrate into communities. However, the WELCOMED Act would ensure all Afghan

parolees have access to the same resettlement services as refugees resettled through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program or holders of Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs). Resettlement services include refugee medical assistance, Medicaid, food stamps, English-language classes, public housing assistance, furniture, driver licenses, job training, and help to enroll children in school. These refugees would gain free health insurance, while many citizens can hardly afford it. Biden is demanding language added for thousands of them to apply for permanent U.S. residency, allowing the evacuees to become eligible for permanent work permits. The bill would potentially make refugees eligible for green cards and a pathway to citizenship. Said co-sponsor Bacon, "Our Afghan allies and those who were at risk and were able to get here will need help to resettle here, after fleeing for their lives and leaving everything behind in Afghanistan. This legislation is the first step in helping those who have been vetted to start their new lives without worry of being hunted down by the Taliban or ISIS." The Senate must pass its own version of this legislation, and then negotiators from the House and Senate will confer and produce a single bill that will head for presidential signing. However, there looms a serious problem regarding vetting and screening out refugee applicants who did not assist U.S. Afghan efforts.

PUBLICITY HOUND. We wonder why Cong. Bacon would co-sponsor a bill sponsored by a publicity seeker. Liberal Democrat Moulton took an unannounced flight to Kabul airport, interfering in the midst of our military trying to evacuate thousands of Americans and Afghans fleeing. He claimed that his trip was necessary to provide proper oversight of the Biden Regime evacuation process. This interference drew scathing responses from both military and the Biden Regime, calling him irresponsible and selfish. Speaker Pelosi fumed. He occupied an airplane seat on the return trip that could have held an endangered refugee. Said a senior Regime official, "Whether intended or not, this is nothing but a distraction at a moment when time is key and every seat on planes should be for someone trying to get out of Afghanistan."

PROBLEMS. The Biden Regime intends to provide taxpayer-funded health insurance to all Afghan refugees, including those who did little or nothing to help the U.S. campaign in Afghanistan. This insurance funneled through the Dept. of Health & Human Services. Not all the Afghans screened or vetted as parole candidates for admission. A parolee can stay in the U.S. temporarily, usually one year, and work during that time. The parole measure intended for use sparingly, but the Biden Regime utilizes it broadly. Sec. of State Blinken is circumventing the stipulation that parolees not eligible for several federal welfare benefits, including Supplemental Security Income, food stamps, medical aid, and employment aid. Notwithstanding that the State Department Foreign Affairs Manual content governing parole status mention that parolees are ineligible for public assistance. A Biden State Dept. program will help these refugees obtain free housing, transportation, food, cash, clothes, and legal counsel. The Department is already giving tens of thousands of Afghan evacuees, most of them parolees, temporarily housed at U.S. military bases, a 1-time payment of \$1,250. 8 military sites across the U.S. are housing 42,000 Afghan evacuees, 95,000 expected. Among the evacuees are thousands with no immigration status petitions at all and no family ties here. ¹

RESETTLEMENT PROBLEMS. Biden is urging Congress to pass a \$6.4 billion stopgap funding bill that would include funds for the resettlement of over 50,000 Afghan evacuees in the U.S. Under the Immigration and Nationality

¹ Edwin Mora, Breitbart News, Sept. 8, 2021.

Act, probation granted on "urgent humanitarian grounds" or because a person's entry into the U.S. viewed as a "significant public benefit," sometimes within only a few hours compared to the visa process, which can take years. With an estimated half a million Afghans fleeing their country, resettlement agencies cannot manage to offer so many refugees accommodation and food. The State Dept. has cooperation agreements with several nonprofit agencies, who arrange for shelter, supplies, clothing, and groceries for the Afghans. However, these agencies never have enough financing to provide refugees with all the services and aid pledged. The feds give resettlement nonprofits a specific amount to cover basic needs in a 1-time amount. This money supposedly covers basic needs from 30-90 days and \$1,050 for administrative costs of relocation services. Currently, the federal government provides \$2,275 for each Afghan who humanitarian parolee resettlement agencies serve, and \$1,225 in direct assistance to Afghans. The Refugee Act of 1980 provides funding for up to 3 years to assist refugees after they arrive in the U.S. However, the admission and placement funding is not enough to create substantial Afghan progress in economic independence. After 3 months, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) works through the states and other nongovernmental organizations to provide refugees with limited cash and medical assistance, also short-term language, employment, and welfare services and longer-term integration services. The sharp increase in admissions of Afghan evacuees has strained the resources of the 9 national U.S. refugee resettlement agencies, prompting them to house some refugees in expensive hotels and Airbnb rentals while affordable apartments sought. There is enormous difficulty finding these refugees affordable housing, especially in NE, which already has few vacancies because of the Biden moratorium on rent payments. Expensive hotels, at taxpayer expense, now hold thousands of Afghans, especially those with large families. Biden approved \$500 million tax dollars from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (MRAA) to meet unexpected and urgent needs of refugees at risk as a result of the Afghan influx. The Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 established the MRAA fund in response to the influx of Cuban immigrants.² Massive spending of tax dollars ongoing.



DIRE CONSEQUENCES. We certainly have a moral obligation to help deserving displaced Afghans, thousands who loyally served the U.S. mission as fellow soldiers, interpreters, translators, cultural advisors, drivers, NGO employees, human rights activists, and clerical staff. Because of their service to the U.S. mission, these allies and their families soon became the targets of anti-American violence and Taliban revenge. However, the Pentagon revealed that 88,000 of the 100,000 evacuees out of Kabul are "Afghan nationals without an existing credible claim to legal U.S. residency." Also, the influx waives the medical exam requirement, allowing Afghans to bring a host of 3rd

World diseases here. A measles outbreak already occurred on a planeload of refugees. Afghan evacuees supposedly required to receive vaccinations against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and the coronavirus within 7 days of being granted parole, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Also required to undergo tuberculosis testing. However, no verification system exists. Ken Cuccinelli, the Trump acting deputy secretary of DHS, refuses to believe that the refugees have faced sufficient review, given the time frame, number of people fleeing, and other challenges. The "mass importation of potentially hundreds of thousands of people who do not share American cultural, political, or ideological commonalities poses serious risks to both national security and broader social cohesion," he wrote. The vetting process is lame. Stephen Miller, senior adviser to President Trump and architect of his immigration policy, warned about Biden Afghan resettlement policies which will import thousands of Afghanis into the U.S. and cost Americans, including our children, billions of dollars, while turning unvetted Afghan nationals into U.S. citizens. The Biden government funding bill includes lifetime welfare and path to citizenship for every unvetted Afghan. At any point in the future, immediate relatives available for the same status and benefits courtesy of formal chain migration. Afghan national defined not only to include current but also former residents of Afghanistan, including millions living in Pakistan.³ The disorganized vetting process mirrors the chaotic withdrawal, laying the groundwork for another massive terrorist attack by sleeper cells within the U.S. Many of those who carried out the 9/11 attacks 20 years ago had resided in the country legally after receiving visas during the Clinton Regime. The State Department is proposing to double the number of refugees admitted into the U.S. Refugee admissions target from 62,500 in Fiscal Year 2021 to 125,000 in Fiscal Year 2022, so NE will get a double dose of refugees. Passing HR 5168 will only encourage millions more Afghans to seek asylum here.

CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION. The Republican Study Committee, the largest conservative caucus in the House, opposes the massive influx, worried about incoming diseases and lack of vetting, raising questions about whether resettled Afghans can undergo proper vetting given the chaos of the U.S. military withdrawal. "It would be mind-bending to

² Jennifer Chowdhury, <u>Challenges don't end for Afghan refugees after they enter the U.S.</u>, Sept. 16, 2021.

³ The Thinking Conservative, <u>Biden's Afghan Resettlement Policies</u>, by Stephen Miller.

commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11 by giving any unvetted Afghan national with ulterior motives who has been evacuated now or in the future unfettered access to the American homeland," its memo read. Conservative congressmen argue that the vetting process is not rigorous enough and say that the current process gives DHS a broad authority to waive screening procedures. We were lied to, Conservative Rep. Lauren Boebert complained, noting that tens of thousands of the evacuees were not eligible for special immigrant visas, because they were not translators or other helpers. Rep. Matt Rosendale (Mont)., warned that Biden was flooding Montana communities with unvetted refugees. Rep. Madison Cawthorne (N.C.) complained that this asylum treated refugees better than American citizens. Sen. Roger Marshall (KS.), a physician, worries about infectious diseases such as polio, mumps, rubella, and tuberculosis carried by



refugees. As a pool of potential refugees grows, "there's always concerns that a terrorist organization can take advantage of a mass movement of people," Senate Intelligence Committee Vice Chair Marco Rubio (Fla.) said. The more digging into this, the more we see that it looks like the Biden Regine packed these planes with many who are not vetted, Sen. Steve Daines (Mont.) added, "And that's a huge problem."

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE. Instead of unloading thousands of Afghan refugees on state taxpayers, Cong. Bacon should promote legislation to help settle these refugees in nations nearer to Afghanistan that share their culture. At a fraction of the

cost, we could resettle these migrants in their home region, places that share their lifestyles and religion. The United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Jordan should offer asylum for Afghans who one day may wish to return home.

TAKE ACTION NOW. As hundreds of Afghan refugees descend upon Nebraska, count on liberal nonprofits, leftwing churches, and other social justice champions to break out their begging bowls and ask the state, cities, counties, and other government subdivisions to contribute taxpayer dollars to the resettlement effort. State and local taxpayers will absorb much of the cost to pay for refugee education, housing, welfare, and job training costs. Taxpayers should not have to pay for additional expenses for the undeserving Afghan refugees. Allow the leftwing churches, liberal nonprofits, and social justice advocates to raise the necessary funding. Using the information above, lobby Representatives Jeff Fortenberry and Adrian Smith to vote NO on HR 5168. Lobby your state senator, city council member, and county commissioner NOW to refuse additional taxpayer funding for unvetted Afghan refugees and join our NTF *Immigration Watch Project*.

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