

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3601**

January 14, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

Over the past few months, Americans, and Oklahomans, have grown concerned and frustrated with the lack of transparency coming out of your Administration. Specifically, there has been no update or insight into the numbers and vetting process of the thousands of Afghan refugees coming to our country since the failed withdrawal.

As you know, my home state of Oklahoma is set to receive 1,800 Afghan refugees, eight hundred of them relocating in Tulsa. An honorable and effective plan to protect our allies should be adopted. Unfortunately, local leaders, law enforcement, and officials have notified me of a number of problems, including the fact that they simply can't get an answer to how many of those 800 are currently here. In addition, community stakeholders have indicated that they are unable to verify the existence or thoroughness of the vetting system I inquired about in my October letter. To stay attentive to these concerns, I request answers to the following questions based on the reports from people of Oklahoma's First District.

1. How many Afghan refugees are in Oklahoma to-date?
2. What is the total number of Afghan refugees expected in Oklahoma over the course of the next three months?
3. Will Oklahoma receive more than the originally allotted 1,800 Afghan refugees?
4. What is the amount of federal taxpayer dollars allocated to Oklahoma to assist in the vetting and processing of Afghan refugees?
  - a. What, if any, federal benefits are these refugees currently receiving?
5. How many, if any, are currently being housed at U.S. military bases?
  - a. If any, are they allowed to leave the base and enter into the public at any time?
6. How has the ability to corroborate the identities and backgrounds of refugees been impacted by the hastiness of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan?
  - a. If a person's identity or background cannot be fully corroborated, is that person held until their identity and background can be verified, or are they released into the public?
7. Can the Biden administration attest that refugees allotted to Oklahoma have no ties to extremism or criminal records?
  - a. What is the operating procedure to handle that extent of vetting?
8. Of the 1,800 Afghan refugees originally allotted to Oklahoma, what is the current count of former interpreters for the U.S. military versus other refugees?
9. Are all the refugees in Oklahoma in possession of a Special Immigrant Visa?
  - a. If not, how many?

It is crucial that your Administration is transparent, as promised, with the withdrawal and relocating of Afghan refugees. I appreciate your swift response and look forward to receiving your answers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Hern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and the last name "Hern" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary Mayorkas, Secretary Blinken