

**Afghan Adjustment Act – Caring for our Afghan Neighbors
(from Heartland Conference)**

WHEREAS, as the United States withdrew from Afghanistan at the end of August 2021, tens of thousands of at-risk Afghans, many of whom had provided U.S. troops with valuable assistance, were safely and securely flown to the United States; and

WHEREAS, most arrived via humanitarian parole, a temporary status offering Afghans the opportunity to work and remain in the United State for a one- to two-year period; and

WHEREAS, ultimately, humanitarian parole leaves few real opportunities to apply for permanent residency; and

WHEREAS, an Afghan Adjustment Act would ensure that Afghans seeking to make the United States their home can apply to become lawful permanent residents; and

WHEREAS, authorizing such a roadmap would go a long way in creating long-term stability and security for our Afghan neighbors and their families, strengthening the communities receiving them, and respond to the biblical call to welcome and love the newcomer; and

WHEREAS, we are called by God, who says to us, *“The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God”* (Leviticus 19:34); and

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Minnesota Synod has a Circle of Welcome Team which has been working with Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota to aid in the resettlement of an Afghan family; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Minnesota Synod in its 2022 Synod Assembly enthusiastically and passionately urge all congregations and members to write and/or call their members of Congress, urging them to swiftly pass an Afghan Adjustment Act.

Submitted by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Circle of Welcome Team (Afghan Refugee Family Resettlement)