UUSJ Immigration Action Team (IAT) Board Report, September 2022

Since the last report, the UUSJ Immigration Action Team joined the core organizing team for the Evacuate Our Allies (EOA) Coalition. EOA is a large coalition of faith, immigrant, and veteran advocacy organizations engaging Congress on the Afghan Adjustment Act. Because the "humanitarian parole" for many Afghan evacuees who escaped Kabul in desperate situations last August will end over the next year, it is essential to pass the AAA before the end of the calendar year and to start the program and procedural alignments needed to allow these brave allies to have stability and a reasonable pathway to citizenship.

In response to this imperative, EAT agreed to lead, co-lead or participate in EOA meetings with 10 Congressional offices. After the EOA Virtual Advocacy Days ended, IAT followed up on requests for additional Congressional meetings, focusing on key target offices needed for success. At this point, six additional meetings led solely by the IAT have been scheduled, with others pending. As we always do, we are vigorously encouraging UU constituents in these states to join the meetings and help make the case for this much-needed relief.

If you have not had much experience observing how UUSJ "does" advocacy visits to congressional offices, here is a good chance. The Afghan Adjustment Act will provide pathways to more permanent legal status (most who arrived in the last year since the downfall of Afghanistan are on 2-year humanitarian parole). There are six visits planned over the next two weeks. You will see which Senators and when in the attached message. There is also a link which I copy here https://forms.gle/yWubVkBMicXg1mDB6