



JOEL ANDERSON

Serving the cities of:
El Cajon
Poway
Santee

*Serving the
San Diego communities of:*
Allied Gardens
Carmel Mountain Ranch
Del Cerro
Grantville
Kearny Mesa
MCAS Miramar
Miramar Ranch
Rancho Bernardo
Sabre Springs
San Carlos
San Pasqual Valley
Scripps Ranch
Serra Mesa
Stonebridge
Tierrasanta

*Serving the
County communities of:*
4S Ranch
Alpine
Barrett
Blossom Valley
Bostonia
Boulevard
Campo
Crest
Cuyamaca
Dehesa
Del Dios
Descanso
Dulzura
Eucalyptus Hills
Fernbrook
Flinn Springs
Granite Hills
Guatay
Harbison Canyon
Jacumba
Jamul
Johnstown
Julian
Lake Hodges
Lake Morena
Lakeside
Morena Village
Mount Laguna
Pine Hills
Pine Valley
Potrero
Ramona
San Diego Country Estates
San Pasqual
Santa Fe Valley
Tecate
Tierra del Sol
Winter Gardens
Wynola

*Serving the tribal
governments of:*
Barona
Campo
Capitan Grande
Ewiiapaayp
Inaja-Cosmit
Jamul Indian Village
La Posta
Manzanita
Sycuan
Viejas

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I am writing to request assistance from your Administration to allow the County of San Diego to continue resettling Afghan refugees and prepare to receive Ukrainian refugees who decide to settle in San Diego. As your Administration ends Title 42 orders, we are also preparing to address the needs of the additional immigrants expected to enter the U.S. at the San Diego-Tijuana border.

Following the U.S. withdraw from Afghanistan, over twenty-five percent of the 11,000 Afghan refugees arriving in California have resettled in San Diego County. At my behest last fall, the County Board of Supervisors authorized a response plan to address this significant influx of refugees to our region. As a result, County staff continues to work closely with local resettlement agencies and other community partners to address the needs of our new residents and ensure their successful integration into our communities. We also identified the estimated \$9.5 billion in frozen Afghan government assets as an appropriate resource to cover the expenses related to the costly resettlement activities.

Our County has historically taken in a significant number of refugees, beginning with those escaping Vietnam during the 1970s and most recently welcoming refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, one of the emerging communities I represent in El Cajon, is home to one of the largest Iraqi and Chaldean populations in the United States.

As the number of people fleeing Ukraine continues to increase, coupled with your recent decision to admit 100,000 refugees into the U.S., the citizens of San Diego are once again willing to welcome the displaced with open arms. However, to do so successfully will require additional funding from the Administration to support this population. Because our resettlement agencies and local grass roots organizations plan to continue providing the crucial support Afghan families need, they are beginning to feel overwhelmed with current activities - even before seeing the arrival of new refugees from Ukraine.

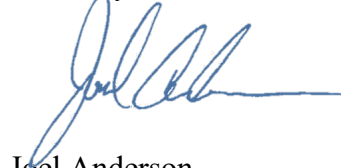
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As your Administration plans to roll back Title 42 orders, we're also expecting a substantial increase in the number of immigrants entering the U.S. at the San Diego-Tijuana port of entry which impacts the work of our resettlement agencies and the ecosystem of public and private entities serving the immigrant population of our border region.

You can help to ensure that San Diego County receives the resources necessary to both continue to serve Afghan refugees and the Ukrainian refugees who choose to resettle in our region. Providing funding to counties, proportional to the number of refugees they are receiving, will help cover costs associated with resettlement activities, allowing us to respond quickly and efficiently to the emerging and evolving needs of existing and new refugees in San Diego County. I respectfully urge you to utilize the remaining frozen Afghan government assets and any frozen Russian government assets to fund the needed resources for these refugee populations while providing the federal resources necessary to manage the additional immigrants entering the U.S. as a result of the changes to Title 42.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my requests. I look forward to the County of San Diego continuing to work with our partners and the Administration to support the needs of existing and new refugees.

Sincerely,



Joel Anderson
Supervisor, Second District

Cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Alex Padilla
The Honorable Darrell Issa
The Honorable Sara Jacobs
The Honorable Mike Levin
The Honorable Scott Peters
The Honorable Juan Vargas