The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 ★
(202) 861-2700 ★

August 6, 2019

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
United States House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Blumenauer:

On behalf of the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, we are pleased to support **H.R. 2796**, *Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2019*. This legislation, as written, will "amend the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to make 4,000 visas available for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program."

Afghan combat translators served as bridges to local people and played an indispensable role in the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. They did so often at the risk of their lives and the lives of their families. Through American Legion Resolution No. 16, *Recognition for Afghan and Iraqi Combat Translators*, we support legislation that would recognize the efforts of Afghan and Iraqi combat translators, "who stood shoulder to shoulder with, assisted and protected U.S. military service members, U.S. diplomats and government agents, non-governmental organizations and media organizations during U.S. involvement in those countries."

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and your continued commitment to the men and women who have served this nation in uniform.

For God & Country,

Brett P. Reistad
National Commander