



Memorandum
Congressman Mark Amodei
Nevada's Second Congressional District

SUBJECT CR Vote 9/30/2021
DATE: 10/1/2021

Background:

- Last week, Congressman Amodei voted against what otherwise should have been a non-controversial CR (with a bipartisan disaster and Afghanistan response supplemental). However, Democrats tied the CR to extending the debt ceiling through December, 2022, essentially giving them a blank check for the rest of this congress. No Republicans supported this approach.
- Congressman Amodei has consistently said that it is unwise to allow the government to shut down, and that he would support a “clean” CR. As such, the Senate sent over a “clean” CR (with the disaster/Afghanistan supplemental) yesterday, which Congressman Amodei supported, along with 33 other House Republicans.

Lessons Learned from Previous Shutdowns:

- In December 2018 & January 2019, the federal government shut down for 35 days, the longest shutdown in history, due to an impasse in providing \$5.7B for the border wall.
- As a result, 9 executive departments with around 800,000 employees had to shut down partially or in full, affecting about one-fourth of government activities and causing employees to be furloughed or required to work without being paid.
- The Congressional Budget Office estimated the shutdown cost the American economy at least \$11 billion USD, excluding indirect costs that were difficult to quantify.
- In addition to delayed benefits and payments millions of Americans rely on, more public displays of the effects were easily seen, such as problems of neglected trash pileup, overflowing public toilets, and access to first across the National Park system.

9/30 CR:

- Yesterday's CR was a continuation of the Trump budget passed earlier this year. The Disaster and Afghan Supplemental bill included \$6.3 billion for assistance for Americans left behind in Afghanistan and Afghans who fled when U.S. troops withdrew, including:
 - Funding to bring home American citizens that were abandoned and left behind in Afghanistan;
 - Transitional support for Afghans who assisted the U.S. and other vulnerable Afghans;
 - Humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan and includes a funding prohibition for direct assistance to the Taliban;
 - Robust oversight and reporting requirements on funding and the resettlement process for evacuated Afghans; and
 - Resources for security vetting and health screening for evacuated Afghans.

The Section pertaining to benefits and Real ID for Afghans reads:

- (b) Benefits.—An individual described in subsection (a) shall be eligible for—
- (1) resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act ([8 U.S.C. 1157](#)) until March 31, 2023, or the term of parole granted under subsection (a), whichever is later;
 - (2) services described under section 412(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ([8 U.S.C. 1522\(d\)\(2\)](#)), subject to subparagraph (B) of such section, if such individual is an unaccompanied alien child as defined under [6 U.S.C. 279\(g\)\(2\)](#); and
 - (3) a driver's license or identification card under section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (division B of [Public Law 109–13](#); [49 U.S.C. 30301](#) note), notwithstanding subsection (c)(2)(B) of such Act.

(c) Expeditious adjudication of asylum applications.—With respect to an application for asylum under section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act ([8 U.S.C. 1158](#)) filed by an individual described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

- (1) conduct the initial interview on the asylum application not later than 45 days after the date on which the application is filed; and
- (2) in the absence of exceptional circumstances, issue a final administrative adjudication on the asylum application within 150 days after the date the application is filed.

However, claims that Afghan refugees entering the country unvetted are inaccurate, as every individual is subject to a security and background check. The law states:

Sec. 2502. (a) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a citizen or national of Afghanistan (or a person with no nationality who last habitually resided in Afghanistan) shall be eligible for the benefits described in subsections (b) and (c) if—

- (1) such individual completed security and law enforcement background checks to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security and was subsequently—
 - (A) paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022; or
 - (B) paroled into the United States after September 30, 2022, and—
 - (i) is the spouse or child (as such term is defined under section 101(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ([8 U.S.C. 1101\(b\)](#)) of an individual described in subparagraph (A); or
 - (ii) is the parent or legal guardian of an individual described in subparagraph (A) who is determined to be an unaccompanied child under [6 U.S.C. 279\(g\)\(2\)](#); and
- (2) such individual's parole has not been terminated by the Secretary of Homeland Security.