

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
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March 27, 2022

Dear Senator Bennet,

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fort Collins, CO, is co-sponsoring an Afghan refugee family and helping them to adjust to their new life in our country. They have become our friends, and we are grieving with them as they learn that family members left behind in Afghanistan are starving. They have told us that there is food available but no work and therefore no money to buy food.

We are thankful for over \$500 million in humanitarian aid that has been supplied by the U.S., but much more is needed.

By holding up the transfer of over \$9 billion in assets that rightfully belong to the country, the United States is helping to cause the economic collapse that has thrown more than half a million people out of work.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, David Miliband, President of the International Rescue Committee, said, "This crisis will not be solved by more humanitarian aid... Aid cannot make up for an economy deprived of oxygen. Economic collapse makes the humanitarian challenge like running up an escalator that is going down faster and faster. It becomes impossible. That is why the need today is not just for more aid; it is for different policy."

We urge you to develop a new policy, a plan for returning the \$9 billion to the Afghan people. We understand that any plan to revive Afghanistan's economy will be complicated by the requirement that the money must not come under the control of the Taliban, but we are confident that there is a way to do this. (In fact, the Afghan father of the family we are co-sponsoring has a plan to accomplish this, and he would love to talk with you. Please contact our church!)

We, the undersigned members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, urge you to do all that you can to support the Afghan people, those who are refugees in our country and those who have been left behind.

As people of faith, we pray for your wisdom, and we urge you to act now.