

November 30, 2012

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Casey and Hutchison:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we would like to thank you for your leadership on the Afghan Women and Girls Security Promotion Act of 2012. This bill is a critical step towards advancing and protecting the human rights of Afghan women and girls.

The Afghan Women and Girls Security Promotion Act would require the Department of Defense to develop a three-part strategy to promote and support the security of Afghan women and girls during and after the security transition process. The bill recognizes that the United States has the opportunity and the obligation to take immediate steps to ensure and strengthen women's security and lay a foundation for Afghan women's full participation in the long term.

The security of women and girls is essential to the future stability and prosperity of Afghanistan. There can be no just or sustainable peace without the guaranteed protection of human rights, including women's human rights. We appreciate your significant efforts to ensure that the U.S. does its part to empower women and ensure that their security needs are a priority.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Amnesty International USA
Center for Advancement of Public Policy
Church Women United
Coalition of Labor Union Women
CREDO
Feminist Majority
Futures Without Violence
Global Gender Program, Elliot School, GW
Human Rights Watch
Hunt Alternatives, LLC
Institute of Multi-Track Diplomacy
The Interfaith Center of New York
Jewish Women International
Just Foreign Policy

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Organization for Women
NCBCP Black Women's Roundtable
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Peace X Peace
Trust Women/Silver Ribbon Campaign
UniteWomen.org
US National Committee for UN Women
Women's Actions for New Directions (WAND)
Women Enabled, Inc.
Women for Afghan Women
Women's Research and Education Institute