

Afghan Adjustment Act

September 2022

INTRODUCTION

On August 30, 2021, the US ended its military engagement with Afghanistan. In the preceding weeks, and in the weeks after the US finished its evacuation, tens of thousands of US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans were evacuated to the United States. Many of these Afghans had served alongside the US military.

Many US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans were granted entry and temporary legal status via humanitarian parole. Humanitarian parole gives them the right to live and work in the United States temporarily but offers no direct path to permanent residence or US Citizenship. Many Afghans must now seek a more permanent status. Common pathways to permanent residency, like the asylum system or Special Immigrant Visa process (SIV), face severe backlogs, long processing times and/or strict eligibility requirements, making them out of reach for many.

In August 2022, a group of bipartisan legislators introduced the Afghan Adjustment Act (S. 4787/H.R. 8685) in the US Senate and House of Representatives, which will allow certain US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans to apply to live in the United States permanently. This report explores the American public's familiarity and attitudes towards the Afghan Adjustment Act.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. A majority of Americans support the Afghan Adjustment Act and feel the US should take in Afghans.

Although most Americans are not familiar with the legislation, after reading a neutral description of the Afghan Adjustment Act, 59% of Americans expressed support.

More generally, 69% of Americans believe the US should take in Afghans, with 41% saying we should take in as many as possible and 28% saying we should take in some.

2. Public support for the Afghan Adjustment Act emphasized the service of Afghans alongside the US military.

For the majority of Americans who support the Afghan Adjustment Act, most believe that the US has a duty to help US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans (67%), and that these Afghans deserve permanent residency since they put their lives at risk working with American service members during the war (66%).

3. Support for the bill increases when Americans learn that it has the support of prominent veterans groups.

When presented with information about veterans groups supporting the legislation, public support for the Afghan Adjustment Act increases by 17 percentage points, with 76 percent of Americans saying they support the bill.

Learning about the rigorous security measures in the Afghan Adjustment Act also generates a significant increase in support for the legislation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

US Citizen Survey

Results are shown as “US Average”.

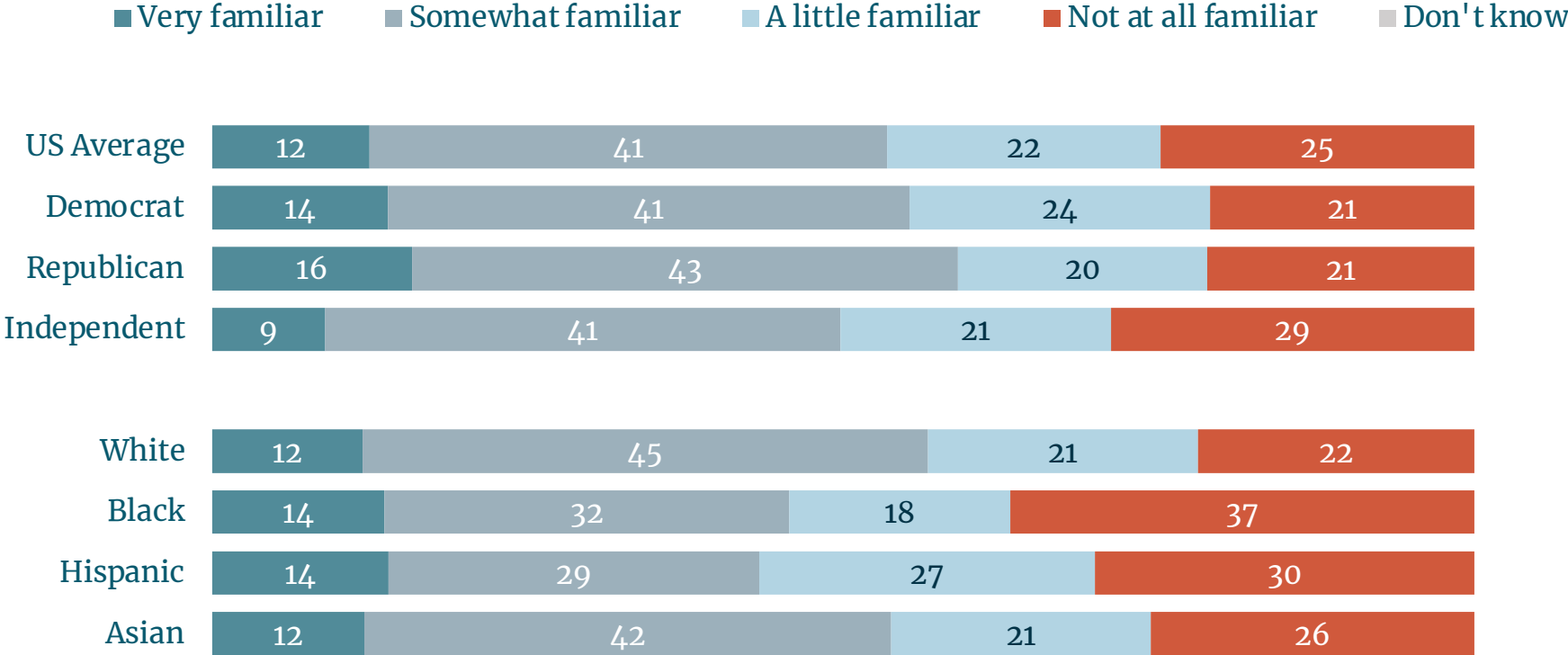
More in Common partnered with international polling company YouGov to conduct online survey interviews with n=1,500 adult US citizens from August 26 to September 1, 2022. The data was weighted to be representative of American citizens using propensity scores, with score functions including gender, age, race, education, and region. The weights were then post-stratified on 2020 presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (6-category), race (5-category), and education (4-category). The margin of error (adjusted for weighting) is +/- 2.5 for the US average and higher for subgroups.

Views towards and familiarity with relocating Afghans and the Afghan Adjustment Act

Most Americans are at least somewhat familiar with the ongoing relocation of US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans to the United States. 1 in 4 Americans are not at all familiar.

How familiar are you with the relocation of US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans to the United States following America's withdrawal from Afghanistan?

Numbers in %

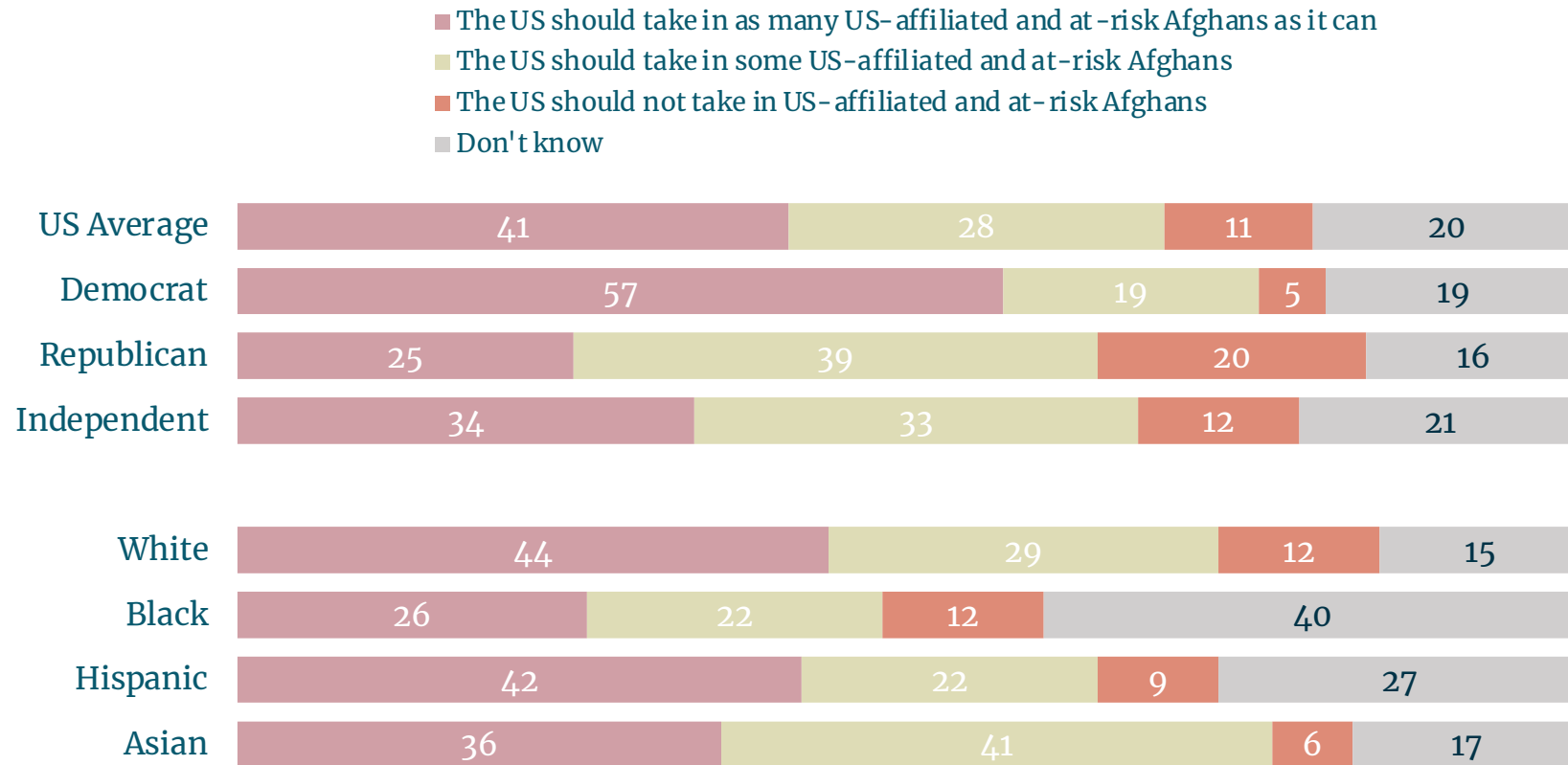


A statistically insignificant number of respondents across demographic categories chose "Don't know" as a response (less than .5%).

69% of Americans – including 76% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans – believe the US should take in US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans. Variation in support is primarily around the number of Afghans the country should take in.

Which of the following statements do you agree with the most?

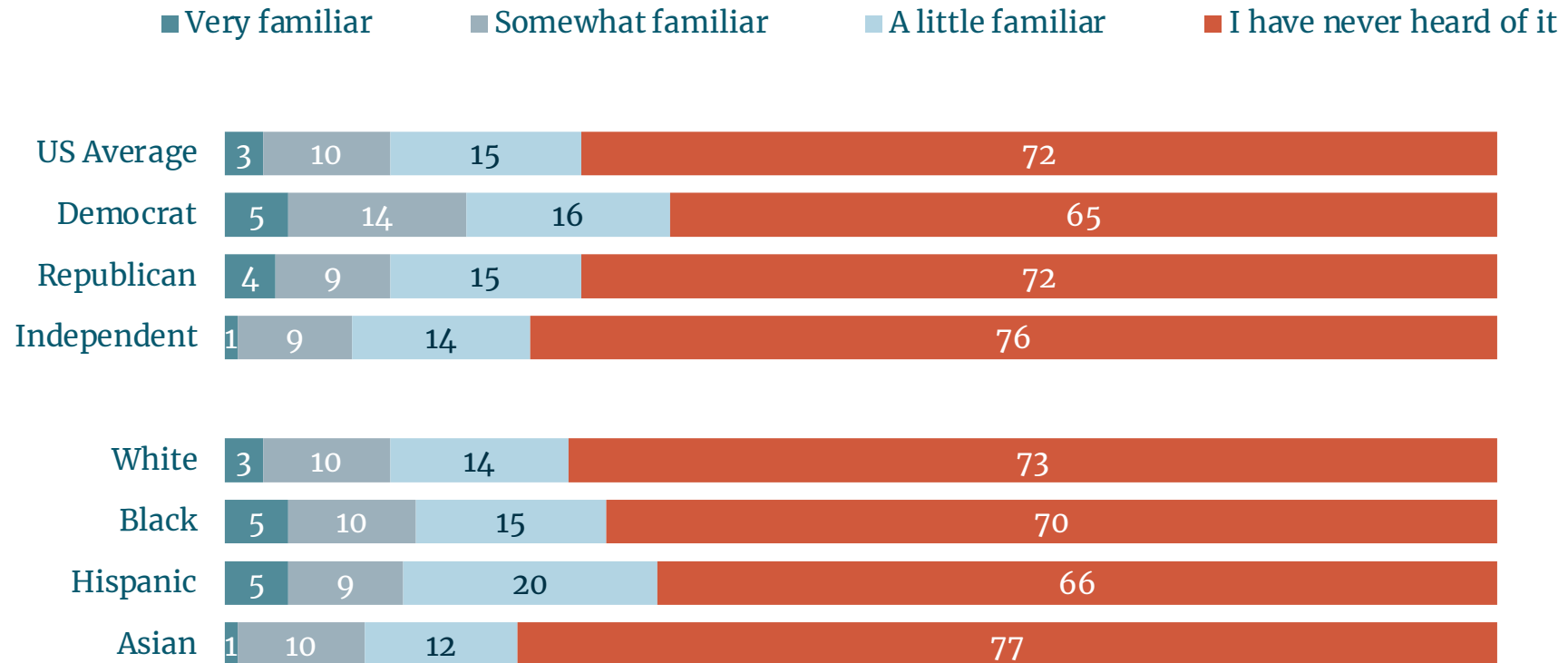
Numbers in %



Roughly 7 in 10 Americans have never heard of the Afghan Adjustment Act.

How familiar are you with the Afghan Adjustment Act?

Numbers in %



While 7 in 10 Americans have never heard of the Afghan Adjustment Act, after reading a neutral description of the Afghan Adjustment Act nearly 6 in 10 Americans expressed their support.

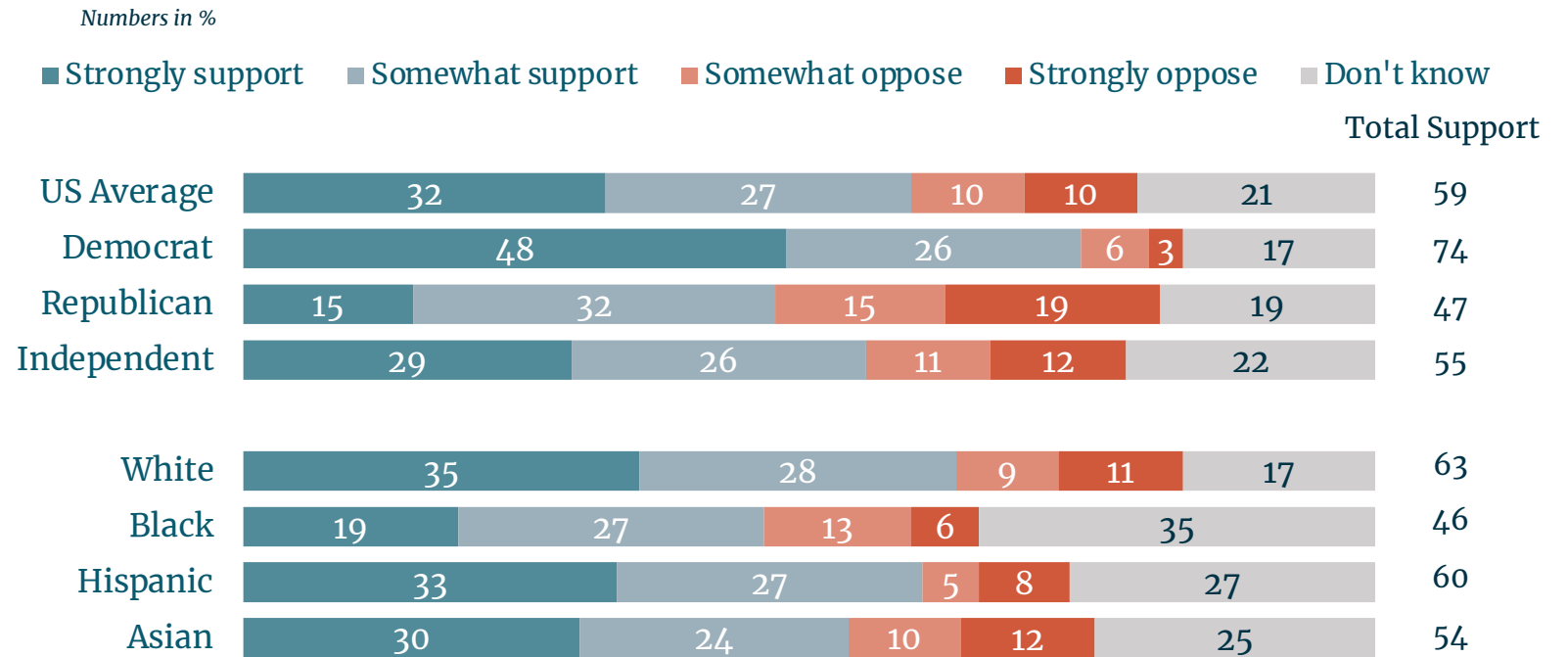
Most Americans (59%) support giving US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans a pathway to permanent residency.

Neutral Description

Following the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan, tens of thousands of US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans were evacuated to the US and granted entry and temporary legal status via humanitarian parole. Humanitarian parole gives them the right to live and work in the United States temporarily but offers no direct path to permanent residence or US Citizenship.

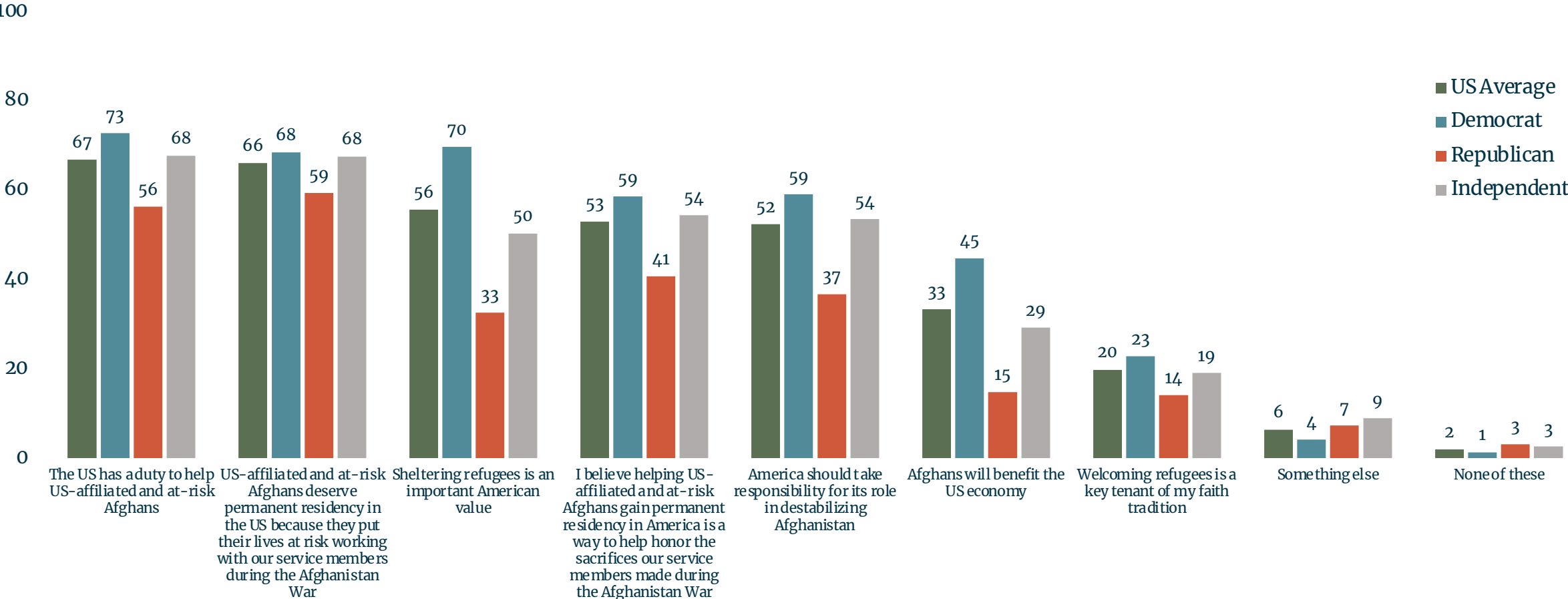
The Afghan Adjustment Act would allow certain Afghans who were recently relocated to the US to apply for permanent residency. Other pathways to permanent residency, like the asylum system or Special Immigrant Visa process (SIV), face severe backlogs and long processing times. Note: Permanent residency means eligible individuals could eventually apply for US citizenship.

Do you support or oppose giving US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans a pathway to permanent residency via the Afghan Adjustment Act?



For those who support the Afghan Adjustment Act, most believe that the US has a duty to help US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans, and that these Afghans deserve permanent residency since they put their lives at risk working with American service members during the war.

Numbers in %



Survey question: Which of the following are reasons you support giving US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans permanent residency in the US? Select all that apply.

Afghan Adjustment Act: Veterans and Security

When presented with information about the support the legislation has from prominent veterans organizations, public support for the Afghan Adjustment Act increases by 17 percentage points. Relatedly, when presented with information about the robust security measures in place, public support increases by 16 percentage points.

Support for the Afghan Adjustment Act increases across all political parties when Americans are presented with information about support for the bill from prominent veterans groups and the robust security measures in place.

Support for the Afghan Adjustment Act

Strongly + somewhat support %

100

80

60

40

20

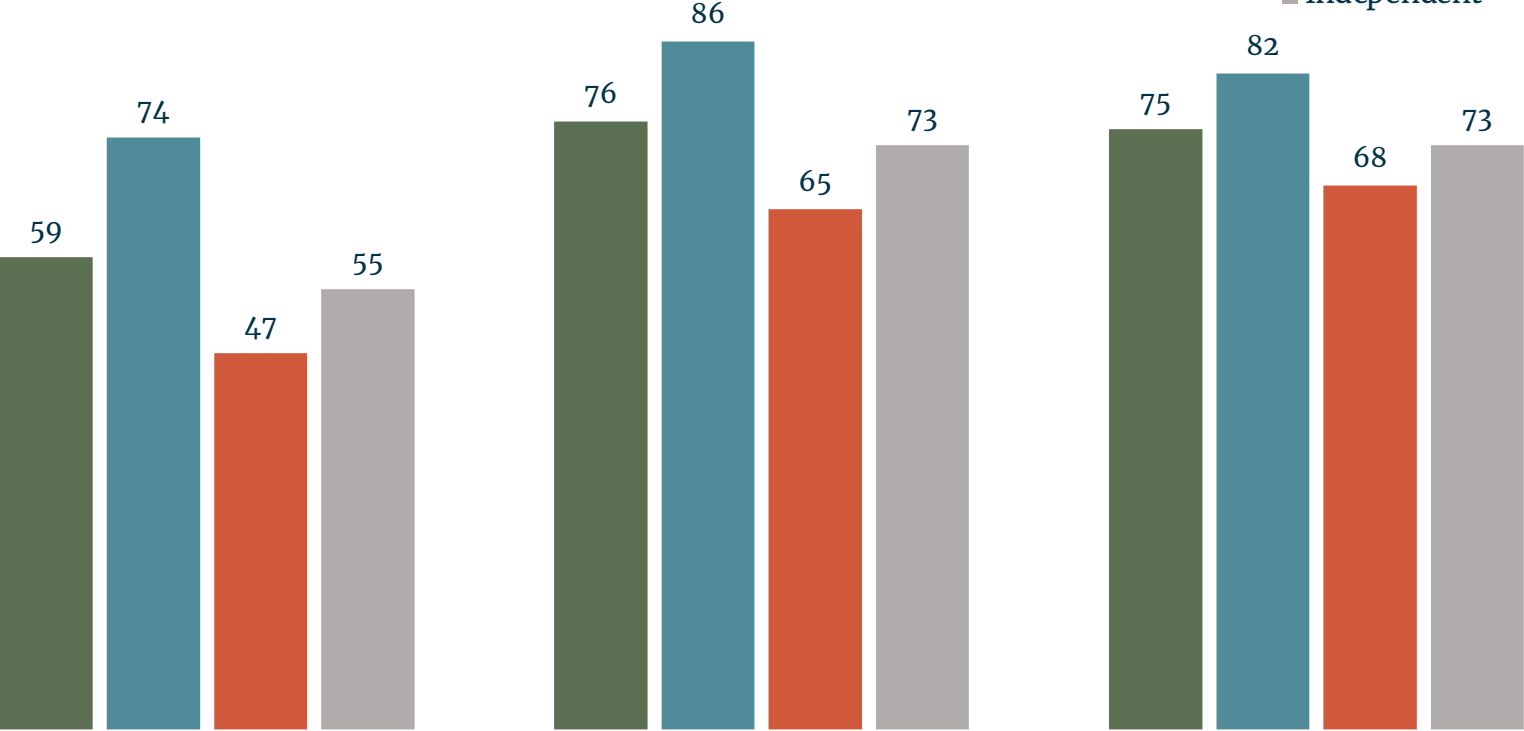
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■ US Average

■ Democrat

■ Republican

■ Independent



Neutral description

Veteran framing

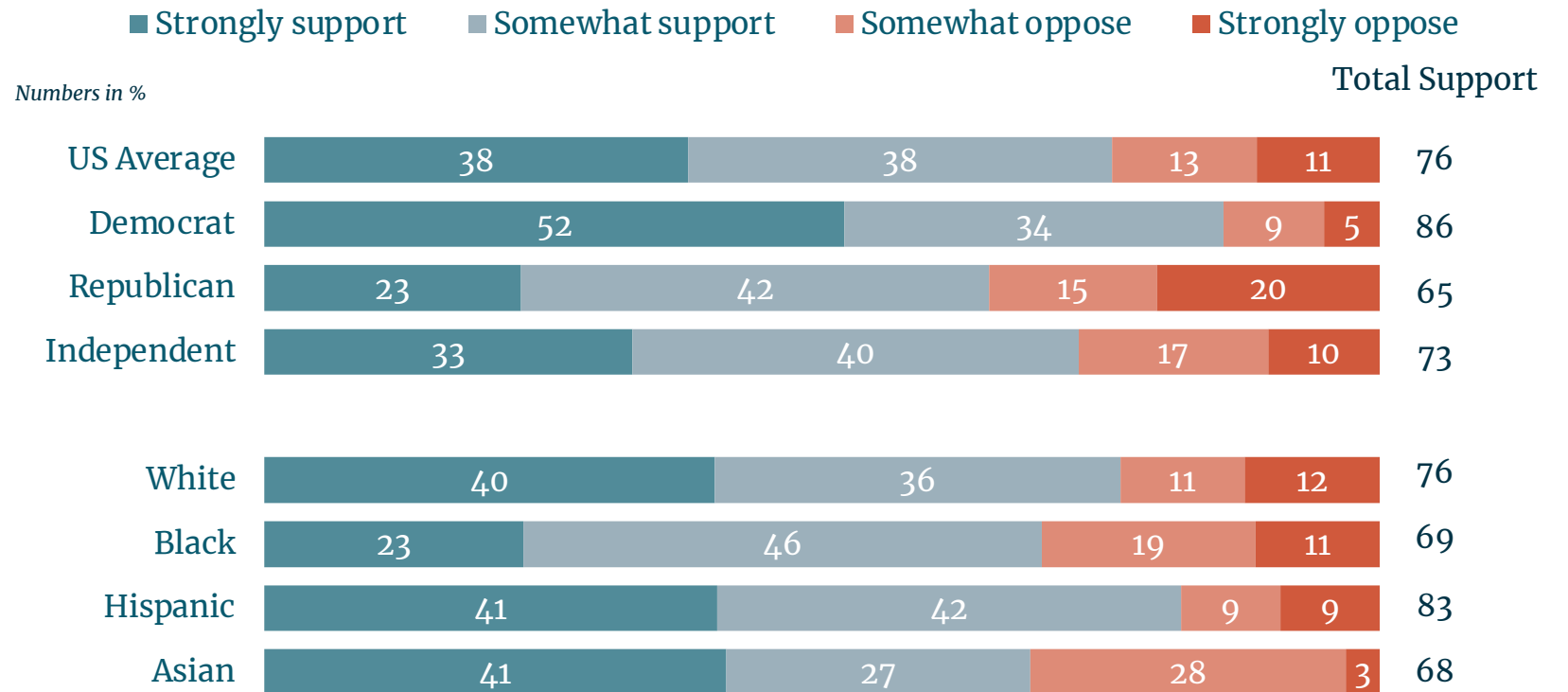
Security framing

Public support for the Afghan Adjustment Act increased by 17 percentage points when respondents were informed that the legislation has support from prominent veterans groups, increasing from 59% (neutral description) to 76% (veteran framing).

After reading the statement, to what extent would you support or oppose the Afghan Adjustment Act?

Veteran Framing

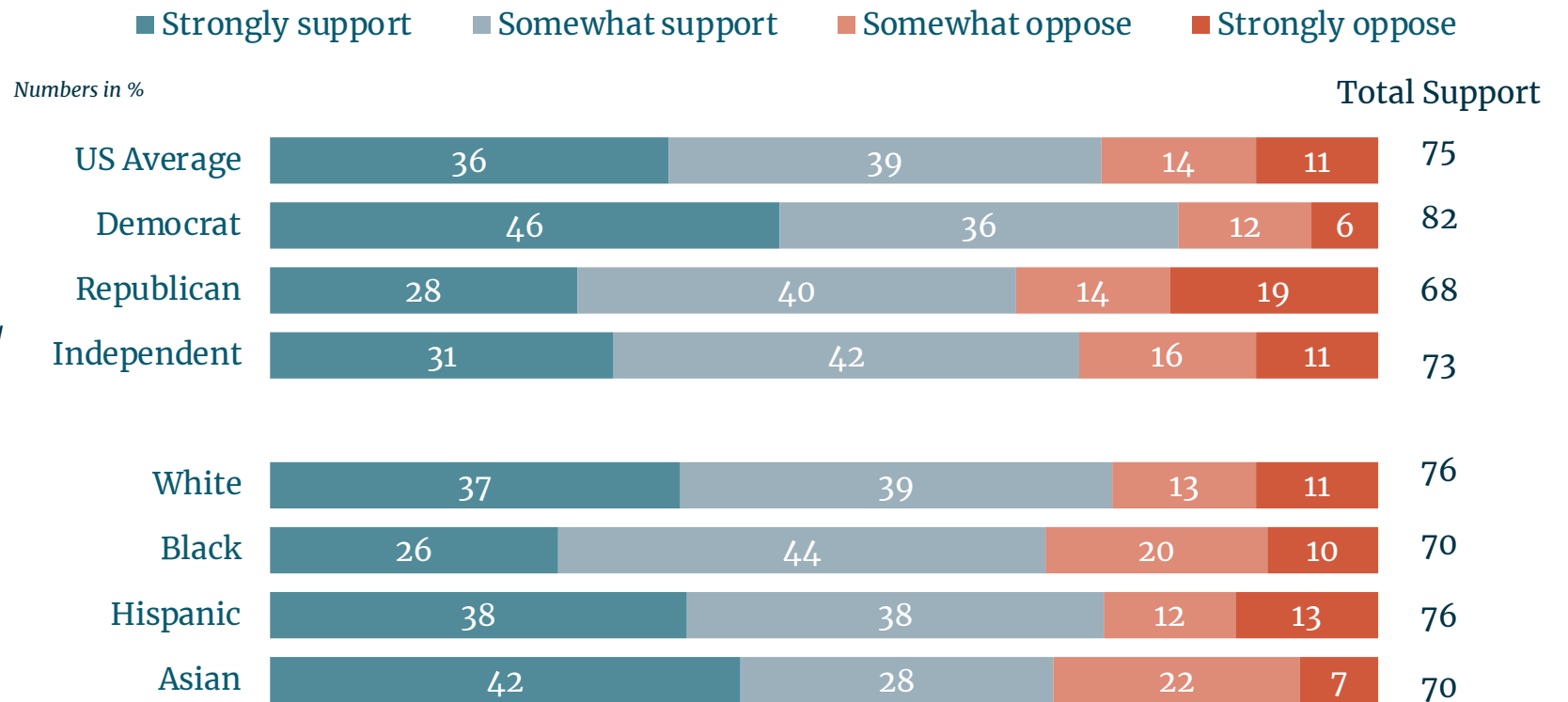
A group of bipartisan legislators recently introduced the Afghan Adjustment Act, which will allow certain US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans to apply to live in the United States permanently. Prominent veterans organizations, including Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Veterans for American Ideals, With Honor Action and Association of Wartime Allies have voiced their support for the Afghan Adjustment Act. The veterans groups said "On behalf of American Veterans, we are proud to support this bill to assist our Afghan allies and friends. It will ensure we keep our promises as a country. We have a moral obligation to save our Afghan allies and their countrymen."



Public support for the Afghan Adjustment Act increased by 16 percentage points when respondents were informed of the robust security measures in place, increasing from 59% (neutral description) to 75% (security framing).

After reading the statement, to what extent would you support or oppose the Afghan Adjustment Act?

Security Framing



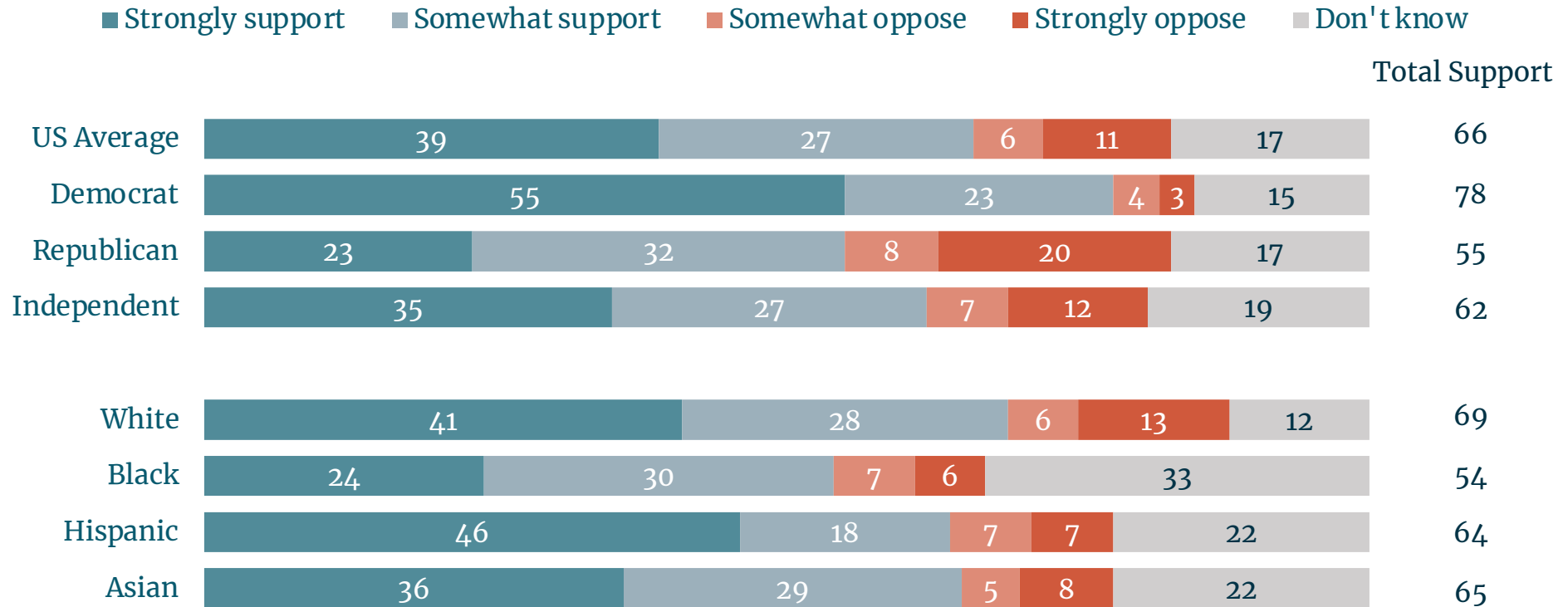
A group of bipartisan legislators recently introduced the Afghan Adjustment Act, which will allow certain US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans to apply to live in the United States permanently. Intelligence, law enforcement, and counterterrorism professionals conduct robust, multi-layered screening and security vetting processes for all Afghans before they arrive in the United States and again once they arrive in America. This legislation requires Afghans to undergo a third additional security screening before receiving permanent status to reside in the United States.

Additional Context

Most Americans (66%) support relocating US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans anywhere in the US.

Support for at-risk Afghan relocation: Anywhere in the US

Numbers in %

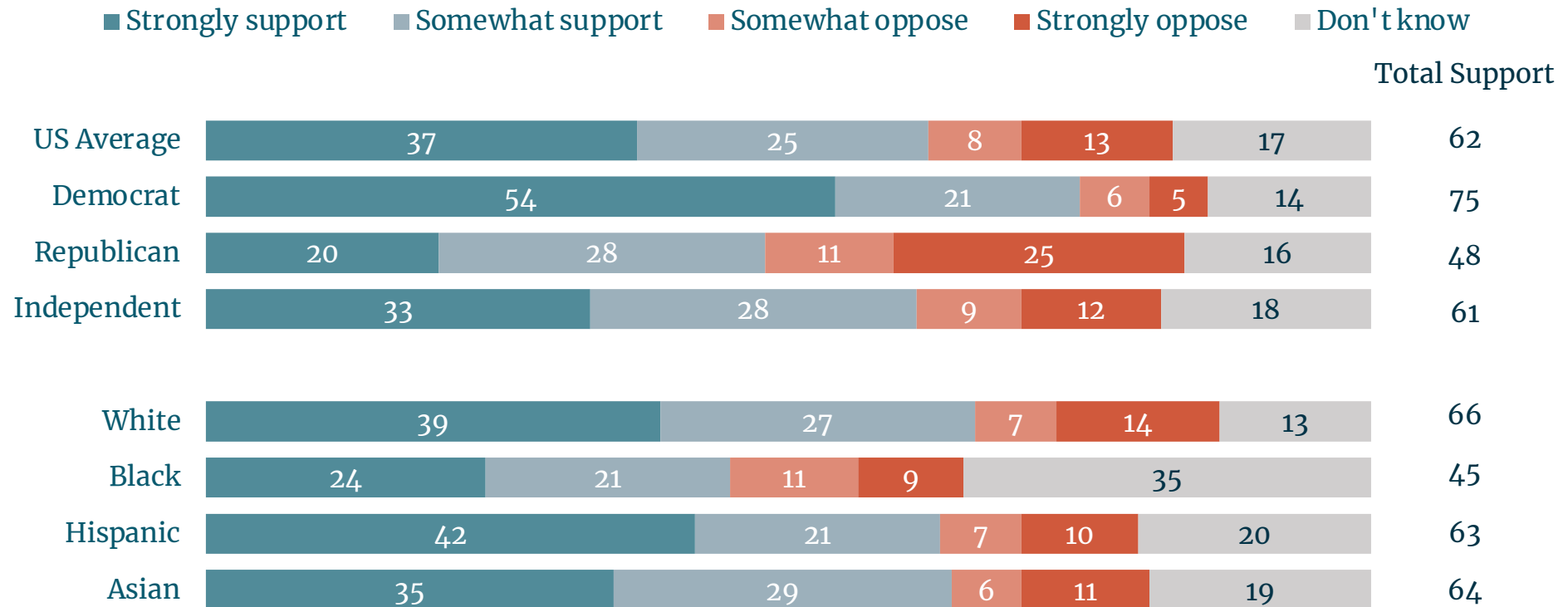


Survey question: Below is a list of locations where US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans may be relocated in the United States. For the following locations, say whether you support or oppose settling US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans there.

Most Americans (62%) also support relocating US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans in their state.

Support for at-risk Afghan relocation: In your state

Numbers in %

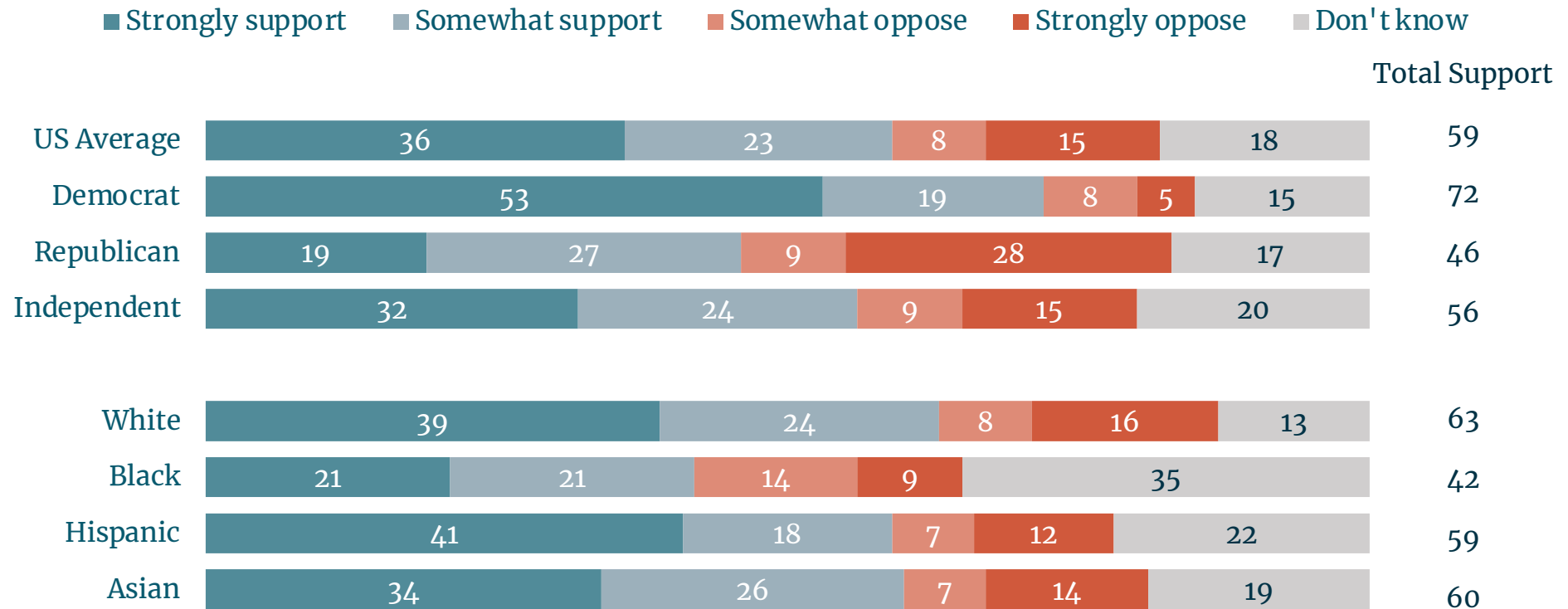


Survey question: Below is a list of locations where US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans may be relocated in the United States. For the following locations, say whether you support or oppose settling US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans there.

Finally, most Americans (59%) support relocating US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans in their community.

Support for at-risk Afghan relocation: In your community

Numbers in %



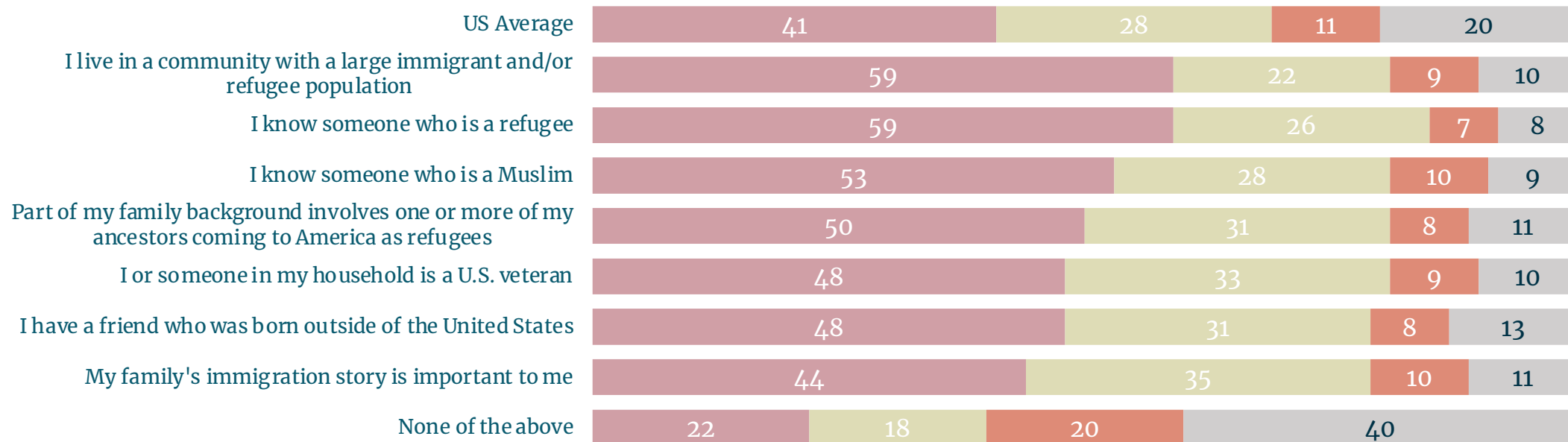
Survey question: Below is a list of locations where US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans may be relocated in the United States. For the following locations, say whether you support or oppose settling US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans there.

Americans who are surrounded by those who are immigrants, refugees, or Muslims are more supportive of relocating US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans to the United States.

Which of the following statements do you agree with the most?

- The US should take in as many US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans as it can
- The US should take in some US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans
- The US should not take in US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans
- Don't know

Numbers in %

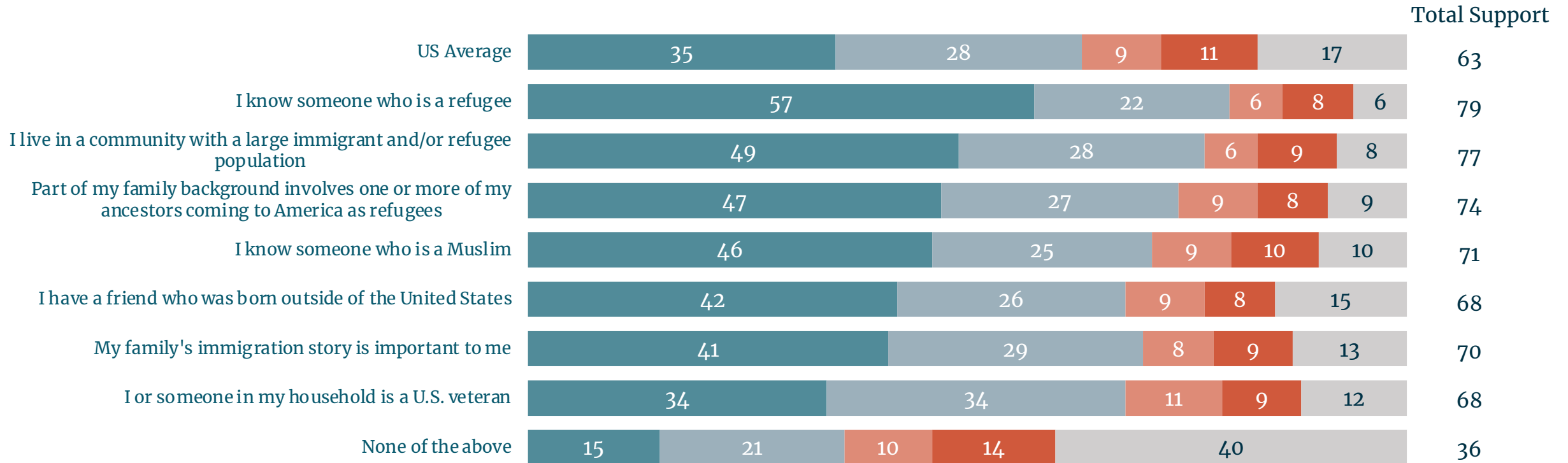


Americans who either know someone who is a refugee, Muslim or live in a community of immigrants are more supportive of the Afghanistan Adjustment Act.

Do you support or oppose giving US-affiliated and at-risk Afghans a pathway to permanent residency via the Afghan Adjustment Act?

Numbers in %

■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know



Thank You