



SR1913

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, There are a significant number of non-citizen veterans of foreign wars, including World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the Afghanistan War, who have been removed from the United States; and

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WHEREAS, When these veterans returned to civilian life without appropriate support in reintegration, both psychologically and economically, they fell into addictions and criminal activities, were arrested and, due to their non-citizen resident status, were deported; and

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WHEREAS, Many of these veterans live in terrible and abject conditions after having served in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Several of these veterans have asked for support in obtaining reentry into the United States to be with their families and United States citizen children; and

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WHEREAS, Non-citizens compose a significant portion of the Armed Forces, enlisting more than 8,000 persons annually; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Department of Defense, more than

1 65,000 non-citizen immigrants were serving in the United States
2 Armed Forces as of 2008, accounting for at least 5% of the
3 total active-duty personnel; and

4 WHEREAS, The Immigration Reform Act of 1996 broadened the
5 criteria for removable offenses to include shoplifting,
6 misdemeanor drug offenses, and other minor offenses, allowing
7 the Department of Homeland Security to quietly deport veterans
8 who have fallen on hard times; and

9 WHEREAS, According to Banished Veterans, a support group
10 for deported veterans, there are currently 3,000 veterans in
11 immigration detention centers or in removal proceedings at any
12 given time; and

13 WHEREAS, Veterans that have been deported do not have
14 access to Veterans Affairs benefits or other benefits designed
15 for veterans; and

16 WHEREAS, The nation owes these veterans adequate support
17 and rehabilitation equal to that of veterans with full
18 citizenship; and

19 WHEREAS, After having served time for their crimes in the
20 criminal justice system, non-citizen veterans are almost
21 immediately dropped at the doorsteps of their country of birth

1 with no resources, no contacts and, at times, no knowledge of
2 the language, resulting in compounded punishment; and

3 WHEREAS, These valiant veterans are solely allowed reentry
4 into the United States posthumously for their burial in a
5 United States military cemetery; and

6 WHEREAS, Members of the United States Congress are calling
7 for an end to the deportation of non-citizen military veterans
8 and United States Representative Ruben Gallego has introduced
9 H.R. 5012, the Restoring Respect for Immigrant Service in
10 Uniform Act; and

11 WHEREAS, The Restoring Respect for Immigrant Service in
12 Uniform Act urges the Department of Homeland Security to
13 readmit veterans who have been deported and have not committed
14 a serious crime, therefore reuniting deported veterans with
15 their families; and

16 WHEREAS, The Restoring Respect for Immigrant Service in
17 Uniform Act prevents the deportation of veterans who have
18 served in the military at least six months and have not
19 committed a felony or significant misdemeanor; and

20 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois recognizes the importance
21 and need for equitable treatment of veterans; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we support the
3 Restoring Respect for Immigrant Service in Uniform Act and urge
4 the members of the United States Congress to pass H.R. 5012;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 delivered to the members of the Illinois congressional
8 delegation.