

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5016

By Representatives Victors, Alcalá, L. Ruiz and S. Ruiz

1-10

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Congress to ensure access to
2 healthcare and other benefits for all veterans of the United States
3 armed forces by enacting legislation to provide healthcare and other
4 benefits to deported veterans.

5 WHEREAS, More than 300 immigrant veterans of the United States
6 armed forces have been deported since 2013; and

7 WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has incentivized non-citizen
8 servicemembers to enlist in the armed forces by enacting legislation that
9 extends eligibility for naturalization, promises a pathway to citizenship
10 and provides healthcare benefits; and

11 WHEREAS, Around 5,000 legal permanent residents enlist to serve in
12 the U.S. armed forces each year; and

13 WHEREAS, Immigrant servicemembers have been a vital part of the
14 U.S. armed forces serving honorably since the American Revolution; and

15 WHEREAS, The men and women who have served in the U.S. armed
16 forces are entitled to a variety of healthcare services, including hospital
17 treatment, outpatient care, dental care, pharmaceutical services,
18 counseling and more; and

19 WHEREAS, Deported veterans do not have access to programs and
20 services provided by the Veterans Affairs system, denying them medical
21 care, resources to claim disability compensation and other benefits they
22 have earned through their service; and

23 WHEREAS, Deported veterans would seek treatment for post-
24 traumatic stress disorder or other service-connected injuries, but because
25 they are denied, their lives are at risk; and

26 WHEREAS, The U.S. Government Accountability Office found that
27 the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has not consistently
28 followed policies that would help ensure veterans receive the proper
29 review before any removal proceedings; and

30 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' stated vision is
31 to "provide veterans the world-class benefits and services they have
32 earned"; and

33 WHEREAS, These men and women have served in the U.S. armed
34 forces and have earned the right to receive healthcare and benefits: Now,
35 therefore,

36 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*

1 *the Senate concurring therein:* That we urge Congress to ensure access to
2 healthcare and other benefits for all veterans of the United States armed
3 forces by enacting legislation to provide healthcare and other benefits to
4 deported veterans; and

5 Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State shall send an
6 enrolled copy of this resolution to the President and Secretary of the
7 United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States
8 House of Representatives, members of the congressional delegation from
9 Kansas, and to the President of the United States.