

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, immigrants have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since the Revolutionary War and have fought for the U.S. in every major conflict in American history; and

WHEREAS, immigrant service members contribute valuable skills and experience to the U.S. Armed Forces in areas such as technology, engineering, medicine, foreign languages, and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, approximately 45,000 immigrants are actively serving in the U.S. Armed Forces today; and

WHEREAS, many noncitizen veterans have been removed from the U.S. before they can become naturalized as U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, many of these removals are due to convictions for crimes stemming from trauma that occurred during the veteran's service in the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, these deportations have resulted in the separation of families and loss of access to benefits that service members and veterans have rightfully earned; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the House of Representatives is H.R. 4569 (Takano), the 'Veteran Service Recognition Act,' which would allow noncitizen service members to apply for naturalization during basic training, establish a review process for service members who are in removal proceedings, and provide an opportunity for noncitizen veterans who have been removed or ordered removed to obtain legal permanent residence status in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4569 would provide immigrant service members and veterans a pathway to citizenship, access to Veterans Affairs benefits and services, and recognition for their sacrifices in service of the U.S.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-24 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 4569 to improve the naturalization process for active duty, immigrant service members, establish a review process for noncitizen veterans, service members, and their families in removal proceedings, and provide an opportunity for deported veterans to obtain legal permanent resident status in the U.S.

PRESENTED BY:

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:

MHR
AUG 04 2023

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