



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF DEPORTED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the League of United Latin American Citizens is this nation's oldest and largest Latino organization, founded in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 17, 1929; and

WHEREAS, LULAC throughout its history has committed itself to the principles that Latinos have equal access to opportunities in employment, education, housing and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, it has come to our attention that there are a significant number of veterans of foreign wars, including World War II, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan who were legal permanent residents; and

WHEREAS, when they returned to civilian life without appropriate support in reintegration psychologically and economically some veterans that fell into addictions and criminal activities, were arrested and, due to their legal permanent resident status, were deported; and

WHEREAS, numbers of these veterans live in North America, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East in terrible and abject conditions after having served honorably in the armed services of the United States; and

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

WHEREAS, Department of Defense (DOD) and the Veterans Administration (VA) have budgeted annually since 1996 to cover the costs of all U. S. military veterans, both service connected compensation and the cost of projected healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the nation owes these veterans adequate support and rehabilitation equal to that owed to veterans with full citizenship; and

WHEREAS, these deported veterans represent the tragic results of a population under siege by the policies of mass deportation and mass incarceration and should be supported in resistance to those policies;

WHEREAS, these exiled veterans face inherent barriers to accessing the Veteran Affairs (VA) healthcare system~ and

WHEREAS, repatriated veterans face many obstacles to reintegration in the VA system including but not limited to, assessments of the veteran's case, delays and availability of appointments, funding, or access to any benefits at all; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently allows warfighters to receive care upon their transition out of service, many of our exiled veterans were not afforded that same opportunity; and

WHEREAS, exiled veterans who have sponsors for their visa are often denied access to the Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program; and

WHEREAS, there isn't a standard operating procedure (SOP) for VA healthcare systems to facilitate a seamless transition for repatriated veterans, including enrollment and ID card issuance; and

WHEREAS, lack of earned healthcare from the VA not being made readily available, exiled veterans have limited opportunities for adequate healthcare support, especially in the mental health category; and

WHEREAS, the financial burden of medical translation can cost up to \$40 per page, putting the lives of exiled veterans at risk, especially during medical emergency; and

WHEREAS, exiled veterans face obstacles when attempting to sign up for myhealthyvet.com without accepted U.S. identification; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration instituted the Immigrant Military Member and Veteran Initiative in July 2021 to address the military members need to exercise their rights to apply for expedited citizenship,

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration reports, as of February 8, 2023, 65 individuals have returned to the United States under the guise of Humanitarian Parole; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration reports that only 20 individuals have retained permanent residency status as of February 8, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has issued Humanitarian Parole in different denominations of time from one month to one year; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has maintained a practice of denying applications without explanations; and

WHEREAS, Congress has provided IMMVETS the latitude to abstain from providing explanations for denial; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has failed to provide adequate guidance on the basic needs for a successful application~ and

WHEREAS, Humanitarian Parole has added another dimension of anxiety from the ticking time bomb of a subsequent deportation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Biden Administration reinstate all deported veterans to their original Limited Permanent Residency status, in lieu of Humanitarian Parole: and

BE IT RESOLVED, if Humanitarian Parole remains the avenue, that the VA shall grant a grace period of at least one year of care to repatriated veterans, including those who have received a bad conduct discharge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that exiled veterans with sponsors for their visa shall be considered homeless, and given priority access to the HUD-VASH program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VA shall develop an SOP for healthcare systems to ensure a seamless transition for repatriated veterans, including enrollment and ID card issuance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VA shall provide medical translation services for exiled veterans, removing the burden from the exiled veteran; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VA shall provide an avenue for exiled veterans to sign up for myhealthyvet.com ..

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Biden Administration provide an avenue for mental health

professionals to administer services to exiled veterans (similar to the allocations made for the Foreign Medical Program.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Biden Administration provide true transparency to the exiled veteran in the case of a denial of said veterans application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Biden Administration proactively utilize the resources in its arsenal to identify veterans that have been deported (such as an algorithmic search through immigration trial transcripts) and provide them necessary support services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the League of United Latin American Citizens hereby:
1. Urges members of Congress and the President of the United States to return these veterans to their families, children and communities in the United States.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2019 LULAC National Convention on July 13, 2019.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President
LULAC Higher Education Committee