

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 19**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo**  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Hueso)

May 27, 2015

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 19—Relative to military service.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 19, as introduced, Alejo. Military service.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation allowing immigrants to serve in the military if they are eligible under the President's Executive Order for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or Executive Order for Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Since the end of the last United States military
- 2 draft in 1973, Americans have not been obligated to enlist, and
- 3 currently less than one percent of the United States population
- 4 serves in the armed forces. During World War II, up to twelve
- 5 percent of the population served in the armed forces; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Thousands of immigrants have served and continue
- 7 serving in vital military roles, including intelligence, information
- 8 operations such as foreign language translators, interpreters, and
- 9 cultural experts, making them an essential resource to our national
- 10 defense; and
- 11 WHEREAS, The United States Army has recently expanded its
- 12 Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI)
- 13 program to allow immigrants with certain skills that are in demand

1 to join the Army in exchange for expedited United States  
2 citizenship; and

3 WHEREAS, Since 2009, over 14,500 United States military  
4 personnel on active duty serving in our armed forces are  
5 immigrants that are not United States citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, Since the September 11th attacks, more than 53,000  
7 immigrants have enlisted in the United States military and have  
8 received wartime military naturalization; and

9 WHEREAS, One of the first casualties of the United States  
10 intervention in Iraq was an undocumented immigrant from  
11 Guatemala, Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez, who was granted American  
12 citizenship posthumously. Subsequently, more than 100 immigrant  
13 soldiers have been granted posthumous citizenship after dying in  
14 defense of the United States during combat in Iraq and Afghanistan;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, As of 2008, the highest percentage of foreign-born  
17 United States military personnel was from Latin America and the  
18 Caribbean, with 38.7 percent (23,926) originating from Latin  
19 America and 35.9 percent (22,226) from Asia; and

20 WHEREAS, Over 5 million immigrants in the United States  
21 and over 1.5 million immigrants in California are eligible under  
22 the President's Executive Order for Deferred Action for Childhood  
23 Arrivals (DACA) program and Executive Order for Deferred  
24 Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents  
25 (DAPA) program and could, at the appropriate age, join the military  
26 in defense of their nation; and

27 WHEREAS, Currently, an amendment to the National Defense  
28 Authorization Act (NDAA) that would allow some young  
29 immigrants with DACA status to serve in the military was passed  
30 out of the House Armed Services Committee with bipartisan  
31 support; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
33 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the Congress of the  
34 United States to enact legislation allowing immigrants to serve in  
35 the military if they are eligible under the President's Executive  
36 Order for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or Executive  
37 Order for Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful  
38 Permanent Residents; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
40 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United

1 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
2 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority  
3 Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to  
4 each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress  
5 of the United States.

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