

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 25, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 19

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

(Principal coauthor: Senator Hueso)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Atkins, Baker, Bloom, Bonilla, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Olsen, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

May 27, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 19, as amended, 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

1 currently less than one percent of the United States population
2 serves in the armed forces. During World War II, up to twelve
3 percent of the population served in the armed forces; and

4 WHEREAS, Thousands of immigrants have served and continue
5 serving in vital military roles, including intelligence, information
6 operations such as foreign language translators, interpreters, and
7 cultural experts, making them an essential resource to our national
8 defense; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States Army has recently expanded its
10 Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI)
11 program to allow immigrants with certain skills that are in demand
12 to join the Army in exchange for expedited United States
13 citizenship; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, One of the first casualties of the United States
21 intervention in Iraq was an undocumented immigrant from
22 Guatemala, Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez, who was granted American
23 citizenship posthumously. Subsequently, more than 100 immigrant
24 soldiers have been granted posthumous citizenship after dying in
25 defense of the United States during combat in Iraq and Afghanistan;
26 and

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

31 WHEREAS, Over 5 million immigrants in the United States
32 and over 1.5 million immigrants in California are eligible under
33 the President's Executive Order for Deferred Action for Childhood
34 Arrivals (DACA) program and Executive Order for Deferred
35 Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents
36 (DAPA) program and could, at the appropriate age, join the military
37 in defense of their nation; and

38 WHEREAS, Currently, an amendment to the National Defense
39 Authorization Act (NDAA) that would allow some young
40 immigrants with DACA status to serve in the military was passed

1 out of the House Armed Services Committee with bipartisan
2 support; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
4 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the Congress of the
5 United States to enact legislation allowing immigrants to serve in
6 the military if they are eligible under the President's Executive
7 Order for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or Executive
8 Order for Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful
9 Permanent Residents; and be it further

10 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
11 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
12 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
13 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority
14 Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to
15 each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress
16 of the United States.

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