
Introduced by Senator Nguyen
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chu and Kim)

March 10, 2015

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to humanitarian resettlement.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 5, as introduced, Nguyen. Vietnam: humanitarian resettlement.

This measure would urge Congress and the President of the United States to expand the Humanitarian Resettlement Program to allow disabled veteran officers of the South Vietnamese Army currently living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to enter the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Vietnamese-American community plays an
2 important role in the social, cultural, and economic landscape of
3 the State of California and the United States; and
4 WHEREAS, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam’s human rights
5 violations and corrupt judicial system have resulted in the
6 incarceration of peaceful dissidents without due process; and
7 WHEREAS, Despite the renewal of diplomatic relations between
8 the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1995,
9 and the launching of the United States-Vietnam Comprehensive
10 Partnership in July 2013, significant human rights violations
11 continue to persist; and
12 WHEREAS, The Global Network for Rights and Development’s
13 2014 International Human Rights Rank Indicator ranks the Socialist
14 Republic of Vietnam as one of the 15 countries who are the worst
15 offenders of human rights in the world; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States government and the American
2 people have a commitment to assisting individuals that fought as
3 allies in the Vietnam War who continue to face persecution and
4 threats from the Communist government of the Socialist Republic
5 of Vietnam; and

6 WHEREAS, The veterans of the South Vietnamese Army, also
7 known as the Quân Lực Việt Nam Cộng Hòa, showed their
8 commitment to the United States by fighting alongside the United
9 States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and have suffered
10 greatly since April 30, 1975; and

11 WHEREAS, The Humanitarian Resettlement Program, also
12 known as the Orderly Departure Program, has allowed for the
13 resettlement to the United States of former reeducation center
14 detainees, former Vietnamese employees of the United States
15 government, and former Vietnamese employees of private
16 American companies and organizations prior to April 30, 1975;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Disabled veterans of the South Vietnamese Army,
19 also known as the Quân Lực Việt Nam Cộng Hòa, have suffered
20 a lifetime of great challenges and discrimination. Yet, disabled
21 veterans were excluded from the Humanitarian Resettlement
22 Program because they were not detained in reeducation camps for
23 the requisite number of years due to their physical disabilities; and

24 WHEREAS, Thousands of disabled veterans of the South
25 Vietnamese Army, also known as the Quân Lực Việt Nam Cộng
26 Hòa, and their families are still living in the Socialist Republic of
27 Vietnam, facing continued persecution from the government,
28 including a lack of access to jobs, housing, and education; and

29 WHEREAS, April 30, 2015, marks the 40th year since the Fall
30 of Saigon; and

31 WHEREAS, Amending the Humanitarian Resettlement Program,
32 also known as the Orderly Departure Program, to include disabled
33 veterans of the South Vietnamese Army, also known as the Quân
34 Lực Việt Nam Cộng Hòa, would rightfully bring these veterans
35 into a program that was meant to include them but inadvertently
36 left them out; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
38 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the
39 President and the Vice President of the United States and the
40 United States Congress to expand the Humanitarian Resettlement

1 Program to allow disabled veterans of the South Vietnamese Army
2 currently living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to enter the
3 United States; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
5 this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United
6 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the
7 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative
8 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
9 author for appropriate distribution.

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