

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 19, 2015

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 5

Introduced by Senator Nguyen

(Coauthor: Senator Hertzberg)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Chu~~ Chávez, Chu, and Kim)

March 10, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, as amended, 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

1 Republic of Vietnam as one of the 15 countries who are the worst
2 offenders of human rights in the world; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
40 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the

1 President and the Vice President of the United States and the
2 United States Congress to expand the Humanitarian Resettlement
3 Program to allow disabled veterans of the South Vietnamese Army
4 currently living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to enter the
5 United States; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
7 this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United
8 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative
10 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
11 author for appropriate distribution.

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