



Congressman

RAUL M. GRIJALVA

Serving the people of Arizona's 7th District

VETERANS VISA AND PROTECTION ACT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Every day, courageous men and women in our armed forces place themselves in harm's way to keep our nation safe. Many of these individuals are U.S. Citizens, but some are lawful permanent residents (LPR) at the time of their active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. According to Department of Defense (DOD) data, a GAO report found that between fiscal years 2013 and 2018, over 44,000 noncitizens enlisted in the military.

While these men and women place their lives on the line, that does not mean they automatically become naturalized U.S. Citizens. If an LPR veteran is convicted of a crime, even a non-violent offense, or minor infraction, they face deportation under our existing immigration laws, even after serving their sentence. The Veterans Visa and Protection Act ensures eligible and deserving veterans can reunite with their families. These individuals have fought for our nation and they don't deserve second-class treatment.

To learn more about U.S. Veterans who have been deported please read this report, <https://www.aclusandiego.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/DischargedThenDiscarded-ACLUofCA.pdf>

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

The Veterans Visa and Protection Act will:

- Establish a visa program allowing deported veterans who meet certain requirements to enter the U.S. as lawful permanent residents.
- Allow those admitted to be eligible for the existing naturalization process for military service and assure access to their military and veteran benefits.
- Stop the deportation of eligible veterans who are currently in removal proceedings

BILL SUPPORTERS

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