



League of United Latin American Citizens

February 9, 2017

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United States Congress
Washington, D.C.

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I urge you to take immediate action to address the plight of U.S. veterans and their families facing deportation.

Thousands of U.S. veterans, commonly referred to as "green card" veterans, were recruited to serve in the U.S. military as legal permanent residents with the promise that they would be granted U.S. citizenship after completing their military service. These veterans served their country honorably and upon returning home, they encountered obstacles and challenges in obtaining their citizenship. In fact, many report that they never received the adequate resources, guidance, or instructions to file the proper paperwork to adjust their status. Others report that their superiors neglected to provide them the necessary information to proceed with their status adjustments.

The results have been devastating. Already suffering from things like post-traumatic stress disorder, brain, and other physical injuries, many "green card" veterans report feeling betrayed, exploited and misinformed by the Department of Defense. Others have experienced depression and anxiety. Even worse, those who have fallen victim to drug or alcohol addiction, face the added dilemma of being "deportable" as a result. Family members, especially those who are out of status, also suffer greatly. Those without proper documentation who care for these veterans are subject to deportation.

LULAC and other grassroots organizations recently met with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to seek legislative action to address the plight of "green card" veterans and their families. Plans are underway to reintroduce legislation that would seek to address the current situation of "green card" veterans, allow for the return of previously deported "green card" veterans, and include language to provide deportation protection for family members of veterans and gold star families.

Your leadership and support are needed to address this issue. To support ongoing legislative efforts please contact Norma Salazar in Representative Raul Grijalva's office at 202-225-2435.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President