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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 137

Offered January 11, 2020

Memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide medical treatment and other benefits for deported veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Patrons—Guzman, Hope, Rasoul and Samirah; Senator: Morrissey

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, according to the American Civil Liberties Union's 2016 report, *Discharged, Then Discarded*, at least 239 veterans of the United States Armed Forces have been deported to at least 34 countries; and

WHEREAS, those who have honorably served our country have been denied medical treatment and other benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, veterans who are deported and who were not seen by a VA doctor for evaluation are not allowed to claim their disabilities; and

WHEREAS, veterans who would otherwise seek treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder or other war-related injuries are denied approval unless they are about to die; and

WHEREAS, deported veterans have in fact died waiting for approval for medical treatment on the border; and

WHEREAS, these men and women have served in the United States Armed Forces and have earned the right to receive medical treatment and benefits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Congress of the United States be urged to enact legislation to provide medical treatment and other benefits for deported veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

INTRODUCED

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