

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 14, 2025

Support for Veteran Service Recognition Act by Congressman Mark Takano

According to estimates from the Congressional Research Service, there are over 100,000 military veterans living in the United States who are not citizens¹. Veterans and current service members are eligible to become U.S. citizens under special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). These provisions reduce or eliminate certain requirements for naturalization, including the requirements for the applicant to have resided in and been physically present in the United States for a specific period before naturalizing.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration’s immigration agenda is putting many veterans and service members at renewed risk of deportation, despite their eligibility for citizenship. There are reports that military veterans and/or their family members have been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during recent immigration raids. Further, the Administration recently issued a policy memo to do away with previous guidance to consider U.S. military service when deciding whether to take immigration enforcement action. Fear of deportation is leading many veterans to stay at home, putting them at risk of isolation, which is having negative impacts to their mental

¹ [Veterans who lack citizenship fear being swept up in Trump's deportations - Los Angeles Times](#)

MOTION

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health and financial wellbeing.

On September 24, 2025, Congressman Mark Takano (CA- 39) introduced bipartisan legislation to support undocumented veterans. The *Veteran Service Recognition Act* (H.R. 5535) would allow noncitizen servicemembers to apply for naturalization during basic training, establish a review process for those who are in removal proceedings, and provide an opportunity for noncitizen veterans who have been removed or ordered removed, and who have not been convicted of a serious crime, to obtain legal permanent residence.

Individuals who have put their lives on the line to serve our country should not have to worry about their immigration status or fear deportation. During this time of uncertainty for our undocumented neighbors, it is critical that the Board of Supervisors take steps to support our undocumented veterans who want to become citizens of the country for which they bravely fought.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to support H.R. 5535, the Veteran Service Recognition Act by Congressman Mark Takano.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) in collaboration with the Office of Immigrants Affairs (OIA) to report back in 60 days in writing with:

1. An overview of the work MVA and OIA are already doing to help veterans who are undocumented, have temporary immigration status, or are

AGN. NO. _____

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permanent residents, to pursue U.S. citizenship, including outreach, referrals, and access to legal and social services.

2. A plan to strengthen and expand these joint efforts, including ways to use the RepresentLA and Mobile Immigration Services programs to connect veterans with immigration legal support and other essential services and resources.

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