

Date:

Senator or Congressman

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

After the last major immigration reform in 1996, the United States began deporting a large number of undocumented immigrants. These deportations not only affected individuals who came to our great country seeking a better life, unfortunately the US has been deporting men and women that have served as Legal Permanent Residents in our Armed Forces.

These deportations have affected men that served as far back as the Vietnam War. While there is no organization keeping track of the number of deported veterans, it is estimated that there are thousands of deported veterans that have been deported to over 30 different countries around the world of which the "Bunker" has kept track.

All of these individuals have been deported for an array of different reasons. However, they all share one thing in common. They have all served in the United States Armed Forces. After their service, these men were convicted of a crime dubbed by the government as being of 'moral turpitude,' an arbitrary term which can include charges as simple as a DUI or writing a bad check. Almost all assumed a fine or some jail time was coming, but almost none of them could have imagined being deported. And who could imagine such a thing?

These men either suffer from PTSD or need to be diagnosed for PTSD in the U.S. Some also need to get an exam for rating by the VA. None of these men should be denied access to VA medical care. In past years, the deported veterans are only allowed to return when they die or are critically ill. We should not wait until they commit suicide or die due to lack of medical care.

With that being said, we ask that you join us in our support of these deported veterans. In recent years, the struggle of deported veterans has caught the attention of many across the country. This is thanks to groups such as the Deported Veterans Support House. The Deported Veterans Support House (aka The Bunker) is a shelter and support organization based in Tijuana, Mexico. The 'Bunker' is run by Hector Barajas, a veteran of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division who was deported in 2004. He now serves other deported veterans. I ask that you take into account the injustice of deporting veterans like Hector and many others who remain eternally separated from their family and friends in the United States. I further ask you to spread awareness of this issue among your fellow legislators.

Hector, myself, and thousands of American citizens share the great hope that you our trusted legislators will join us in the fight of ending the deportation of veterans once and for all. Please support HR 1405 Veteran Visa & Protection Act of 2017.

It would be a great honor to have my **Senator/Congressperson** directly involved in righting this wrong. If you or anyone from your office is interested in hearing more about the cause for deported veterans, I ask that you please contact Hector at the Deported Veterans Support House at [banishedveteran@yahoo.com](mailto:banishedveteran@yahoo.com) or visit [www.deportedveteranssupporthouse.org](http://www.deportedveteranssupporthouse.org).

I also encourage you to read a recent report done by NPR on deported veterans (<http://www.npr.org/2016/01/13/462372040/service-members-not-citizens-meet-the-veterans-who-have-been-deported>).

Thank you for your time and we hope you consider the issue of the deported veterans.

God Bless America.

Your Faithful Constituent,

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Signature

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Date