A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Congress to ensure access to healthcare and other benefits for all veterans of the United States armed forces by enacting legislation to provide healthcare and other benefits to deported veterans.

WHEREAS, More than 300 immigrant veterans of the United States armed forces have been deported since 2013; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has incentivized non-citizen servicemembers to enlist in the armed forces by enacting legislation that extends eligibility for naturalization, promises a pathway to citizenship and provides healthcare benefits; and

WHEREAS, Around 5,000 legal permanent residents enlist to serve in the U.S. armed forces each year; and

WHEREAS, Immigrant servicemembers have been a vital part of the U.S. armed forces serving honorably since the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, The men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces are entitled to a variety of healthcare services, including hospital treatment, outpatient care, dental care, pharmaceutical services, counseling and more; and

WHEREAS, Deported veterans do not have access to programs and services provided by the Veterans Affairs system, denying them medical care, resources to claim disability compensation and other benefits they have earned through their service; and

WHEREAS, Deported veterans would seek treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder or other service-connected injuries, but because they are denied, their lives are at risk; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government Accountability Office found that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has not consistently followed policies that would help ensure veterans receive the proper review before any removal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' stated vision is to "provide veterans the world-class benefits and services they have earned"; and

WHEREAS, These men and women have served in the U.S. armed forces and have earned the right to receive healthcare and benefits: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,
the Senate concurring therein: That we urge Congress to ensure access to healthcare and other benefits for all veterans of the United States armed forces by enacting legislation to provide healthcare and other benefits to deported veterans; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, members of the congressional delegation from Kansas, and to the President of the United States.