

**AMENDMENT TO THE**

**SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1**

**OFFERED BY MS. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK**

At the end of title IX, add the following new section:

**SEC. \_\_. \_\_. Expedited Repatriation and Legal Status for Deported Veterans**

(a) Expedited Repatriation.—

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish a program to facilitate the expedited return to the United States of any noncitizen veteran of the United States Armed Forces who has been removed or deported, provided that the individual—

- (1) was not removed based on a conviction for an aggravated felony (as defined in section 101(a)(43) of the Immigration and Nationality Act) unless the Secretary determines, in the interest of justice and national interest, that the individual should be permitted to return; and
- (2) was not removed on national security grounds.

(b) Legal Status.—

Upon return to the United States under subsection (a), an individual shall be eligible to adjust status to that of a lawful permanent resident, notwithstanding any ground of inadmissibility, except for grounds related to national security or participation in persecution, unless the Secretary determines that granting such status is contrary to the public interest.

(c) Definitions.—

For purposes of this section:

- (1) The term “veteran” means an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.
- (2) The term “noncitizen” means any individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

(d) Rule of Construction.—

Nothing in this section shall preclude the Secretary from exercising discretion to waive grounds of inadmissibility for humanitarian purposes, to ensure family unity, or if it is otherwise in the public interest.