



HJ0024

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 aimed to provide equal treatment under United States law for adopted and biological children by granting citizenship to internationally-born adoptees; however, when the act became law, it did not apply to internationally-born adoptees who were already over the age of 18; and

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WHEREAS, As a result, an estimated tens of thousands of adult legal adoptees who were born before February 27, 1982 and raised in the United States remain without citizenship and are therefore potentially subject to deportation; these adoptees' parents did not complete necessary processes to provide their adopted children with citizenship or, in many cases, even a green card; and

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WHEREAS, Several deportations of individuals who were legally adopted from foreign countries have already taken place, breaking up families and returning the deported individuals to places where they were born but do not speak the birth county's language, understand the culture, or have any connections; and

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WHEREAS, Adoptees who do not have citizenship have come from countries including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa

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1 Rica, Germany, Guatemala, El Salvador, India, Ireland, Haiti,
2 Iran, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Ukraine, and
3 Vietnam; there are an estimated 19,000 Korean American adoptees
4 alone who do not have American citizenship despite having been
5 adopted; and

6 WHEREAS, Two bills which would have granted citizenship to
7 all adult adoptees were introduced with bipartisan support in
8 the 114th Congress, the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2015
9 (S.2275) and the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2016 (H.R.5454);
10 neither bill was referred out of committee for a Congressional
11 vote; and

12 WHEREAS, Both bills sought to amend the Immigration and
13 Nationality Act to grant automatic citizenship to all
14 qualifying children adopted by a U.S. citizen parent,
15 regardless of the date on which the adoption was finalized;
16 citizenship would be granted to any individual who was adopted
17 by a U.S. citizen before age 18, was physically present in the
18 United States in the citizen parent's legal custody pursuant to
19 a lawful admission before the individual reached age 18, never
20 previously acquired U.S. citizenship, and was lawfully
21 residing in the United States; the bills also would have given
22 adult adoptees who had already been deported the opportunity to
23 return to the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, When the biological children of U.S. citizen
2 parents commit a crime, they are not subject to deportation; it
3 is discrimination for the adopted child of U.S. citizen parents
4 to then be subject to deportation; and

5 WHEREAS, S.2275 and H.R. 5454 stipulated that a visa may
6 not be issued to an adoptee unless the individual was subjected
7 to a criminal background check and the Department of Homeland
8 Security and Department of State coordinated with law
9 enforcement agencies to ensure that appropriate action is taken
10 regarding any resolved criminal activity; in the cases in which
11 criminal activity has been properly resolved, the individuals
12 would be eligible for U.S. citizenship; and

13 WHEREAS, Legislation is expected to be introduced into the
14 116th Congress that would grant U.S. citizenship to all
15 adoptees, including those who have been inhumanely deported;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Naturalization of adult adoptees who immigrated
18 to the United States under the promise of finding a permanent
19 home is necessary to ensure that they are not forcibly removed
20 from what has become their home country; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE

1 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we support, as a civil right,
2 automatic citizenship to all qualifying children adopted by a
3 U.S. citizen parent, regardless of the date on which the
4 adoption was finalized, we condemn the deportation of
5 individuals who were adopted into American homes and should
6 have every expectation that their citizenship matches that of
7 their adoptive parents, and we welcome legislation that will
8 provide citizenship for all adult adoptees whose adoptive
9 parents did not complete the naturalization process while they
10 were children; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we urge the Congress of the United States
12 and the President of the United States to enact legislation
13 securing the citizenship of all internationally adopted
14 children who are now adults; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 delivered to the President of the United States, the U.S.
17 Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader, the
18 U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House of Representatives
19 Minority Leader, and all members of the Illinois Congressional
20 Delegation.