

1 HR250
2 201602-1
3 By Representative McClammy
4 RFD: Rules
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8 URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE
9 UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION SECURING THE
10 CITIZENSHIP OF INTERNATIONALLY ADOPTED ADULT INDIVIDUALS.
11

12 WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 aimed to
13 provide equal treatment under United States law for adopted
14 and biological children by granting citizenship to
15 internationally born adoptees; however, when the act became
16 law, it did not apply to internationally born adoptees who
17 were already over the age of 18, those with legal adoptions
18 who entered on visas requiring a secondary readoption in the
19 United States, or those who were adopted legally abroad or
20 here by United States citizens, but entered the country on
21 nonimmigrant visas; and

22 WHEREAS, as a result, an estimated tens of thousands
23 of adult legal adoptees of United States citizens who were
24 born before February 27, 1982, and raised in the United States
25 are still undocumented, and therefore potentially subject to
26 possible deportation; these adoptees' parents did not complete

1 necessary processes to provide their adopted children with
2 citizenship, or in many cases, even a green card; and

3 WHEREAS, several deportations of individuals who
4 were legally adopted by United States citizens have already
5 taken place, breaking up and returning the deported
6 individuals to places where they were born but have no family,
7 language ability, means to support themselves, or other
8 connections and are at risk of homelessness, poverty, mental
9 challenges, or death; and

10 WHEREAS, adoptees who do not have citizenship have
11 come from countries such as Argentina, Brazil, China,
12 Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Guatemala, El Salvador, India,
13 Ireland, Haiti, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines,
14 Russia, St. Kitts, Taiwan, Ukraine, and Vietnam; there are an
15 estimated 20,000 Korean American adoptees alone who do not
16 have American citizenship despite having been legally adopted;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, two bills which would grant citizenship to
19 adult adoptees were introduced with bipartisan support in both
20 the 114th and 115th Congresses and have been reintroduced in
21 the 116th Congress: The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2015 and
22 2018; neither bill was referred out of committee for a
23 congressional vote; and

24 WHEREAS, the bills sought to amend the Immigration
25 and Nationality Act to grant automatic citizenship to all
26 qualifying children adopted by a United States citizen parent,
27 regardless of their ages; and

1 WHEREAS, upon enactment of the Adoptee Citizenship
2 Act, qualifying individuals would automatically become United
3 States citizens on the date on which the person is lawfully
4 admitted to the United States, subject to passing a criminal
5 background check; individuals convicted of offenses involving
6 the use of physical force against other persons may not be
7 granted automatic citizenship; and

8 WHEREAS, naturalization of adult adoptees who
9 immigrated to America under the promise of finding a permanent
10 home is necessary to ensure that they are not forcibly removed
11 from what has become their home country; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama does not condone the
13 deportation of individuals who were legally adopted into
14 American homes; those individuals should have every
15 expectation that their citizenship matches that of their
16 adoptive parents; further, the state welcomes broad
17 legislation that will provide a pathway to citizenship for all
18 adult adoptees whose adoptive parents did not complete the
19 naturalization process while they were children; now
20 therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the members of this body urge
23 the President of the United States and the United States
24 Congress to enact legislation securing the citizenship of
25 internationally adopted adult individuals.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of
27 this resolution be made available for distribution to the

1 President of the United States and to each member of the
2 Alabama Congressional Delegation.