

The House Committee on Judiciary offers the following substitute to HR 228:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to enact legislation  
2 securing the citizenship of internationally adopted adult individuals; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 aimed to provide equal treatment under  
4 United States law for adopted and biological children by granting citizenship to  
5 internationally born adoptees; however, when the act became law, it did not apply to  
6 internationally born adoptees who were already over the age of 18, those with legal adoptions  
7 who entered on visas requiring a secondary readoption in the United States, and those who  
8 were adopted legally abroad or here by United States citizens but entered the country on  
9 nonimmigrant visas; and

10 WHEREAS, as a result, an estimated tens of thousands of adult legal adoptees of United  
11 States citizens who were born before February 27, 1982, and raised in the United States are  
12 still undocumented, and therefore potentially subject to possible deportation; these adoptees'  
13 parents did not complete necessary processes to provide their adopted children with  
14 citizenship or, in many cases, even a green card; and

15 WHEREAS, several deportations of individuals who were legally adopted by United States  
16 citizens have already taken place, breaking up and returning the deported individuals to  
17 places where they were born but have no family, language ability, means to support  
18 themselves, or other connections and are at risk of homelessness, poverty, and mental health  
19 challenges or death; and

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

25 WHEREAS, two bills which would grant citizenship to adult adoptees were introduced with  
26 bipartisan support in both the 114th and 115th Congresses and have been reintroduced in the  
27 116th Congress: the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2015 and 2018; neither bill was referred out  
28 of committee for a congressional vote; and

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

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

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

40 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia does not condone the deportation of individuals who were  
41 legally adopted into American homes and should have every expectation that their citizenship  
42 matches that of their adoptive parents; further, the State welcomes broad legislation that will  
43 provide a pathway to citizenship for all adult adoptees whose adoptive parents did not  
44 complete the naturalization process while they were children.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
46 the members of this body urge the President of the United States and the United States  
47 Congress to enact legislation securing the citizenship of internationally adopted adult  
48 individuals.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
50 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
51 President of the United States and to each member of Congress from Georgia.