

House Resolution 228

By: Representatives Glanton of the 75th, Trammell of the 132nd, Beverly of the 143rd, Smyre of the 135th, Bennett of the 94th, and others

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 not American citizens, are potentially undocumented, and further subject to possible
13 deportation; these adoptees' parents did not complete necessary processes to provide their
14 adopted children with citizenship or, in many cases, even a green card; and

15 WHEREAS, several deportations of individuals who were legally adopted from foreign
16 countries have already taken place, breaking up families by separating parents from minor
17 children, adult children from parents, husbands from wives, siblings and extended families
18 from each other; and returning the deported individuals to places where they were born but
19 have no family, language ability, means to support themselves, or other connections and are
20 at risk of homelessness, poverty, and mental health challenges or death; and

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

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

30 WHEREAS, the bills sought to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to grant
31 automatic citizenship to all qualifying children adopted by a United States citizen parent,
32 regardless of the date on which the adoption was finalized; citizenship would be granted to
33 any individual who was adopted by a citizen before age 18, including kinship adoptions, who
34 was physically present in the United States in the citizen parent's legal custody pursuant to
35 a lawful admission before the individual reached age 18, who never previously acquired
36 citizenship, and who was lawfully residing in the United States; 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.