

House Resolution 104 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY JACOBY

1 A Resolution calling on the United States congressional
2 delegation from Iowa to support federal protections
3 for children of long-term visa holders.

4 WHEREAS, more than 250,000 individuals living in the
5 United States are children of legal immigrants who were
6 brought to the United States lawfully at an average
7 age of five and have been raised and educated in our
8 country; and

9 WHEREAS, these individuals represent the very
10 essence of the American experience, grow up in
11 the United States, and attend American schools and
12 universities; and

13 WHEREAS, barriers in our immigration system prevent
14 many legal immigrants from obtaining permanent
15 residency status, and these legal immigrants live,
16 work, create jobs, and raise families on long-term work
17 visas or small business visas; and

18 WHEREAS, these barriers result in the children of
19 these long-term visa holders losing their lawful status
20 upon their 21st birthday, at which time they lose their
21 opportunity to receive a green card with their family
22 and are expected to self-deport with their previous
23 time spent in the country rendered useless in the eyes
24 of America's immigration system; and

25 WHEREAS, if no action is taken to address this
26 issue, it may eventually force over 250,000 individuals
27 to self-deport, including approximately 1,000
28 individuals from the state of Iowa; and

1 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has heard
2 testimony through congressional hearings from two
3 Iowans impacted by this issue; and

4 WHEREAS, these immigration policies drive
5 a significant loss in human capital in Iowa,
6 harming long-term domestic, economic, and security
7 interests; and

8 WHEREAS, workforce shortages in Iowa, especially
9 in health care and the sciences, demand the skills
10 and talents of children of long-term visa holders, 87
11 percent of whom are in the health care and science
12 fields; and

13 WHEREAS, numerous employers, organizations,
14 businesses, community leaders, faith leaders, mayors,
15 law enforcement officers, and former national security
16 officials on a bipartisan basis have recognized the
17 importance of the children of long-term visa holders to
18 Iowa's economic interests; and

19 WHEREAS, the American Action Forum estimates the
20 economic cost of compelling hundreds of thousands of
21 children of long-term visa holders who have received
22 the investment of American public education and
23 public service resources to self-deport exceeds \$30
24 billion; and

25 WHEREAS, the interests of the Iowa General
26 Assembly should be reflected in the priorities of our
27 representatives in state and federal government; and

28 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has introduced
29 the bipartisan America's Children Act (H.R. 3442) and
30 the Protecting Children of Long-Term Visa Holders

1 Act (S. 1667) to ensure that children of long-term
2 visa holders who have been raised and educated in
3 America can remain in this country upon their 21st
4 birthday; and

5 WHEREAS, the Honorable Joni Ernst, United States
6 Senator, and the Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
7 Ashley Hinson, Zach Nunn, and Randy Feenstra, United
8 States Representatives, have shown their commitment to
9 the people of Iowa by cosponsoring the legislation; NOW
10 THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
12 That the residents of Iowa extend their heartfelt
13 appreciation and gratitude to their elected officials
14 for their support and sponsorship of the legislation.
15 Their dedication to the welfare and interests of
16 the people of Iowa is commendable, and their actions
17 exemplify true representation in the United States
18 Congress; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
20 Representatives urges the Iowa congressional delegation
21 to actively support and work toward passing the
22 bipartisan legislation, which aims to break down
23 barriers for children of long-term employment-based
24 visa holders who have been lawfully brought to America,
25 and raised and educated in this country. The Iowa
26 General Assembly also urges the Iowa congressional
27 delegation to support inclusion of any provisions in
28 the end-of-year bills to provide protections for these
29 children of long-term visa holders; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of

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1 Representatives authorizes and directs that copies of
2 this resolution be sent to each member of the United
3 States congressional delegation for Iowa.