

House Concurrent Resolution 7 - Introduced

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY DUNWELL, LOHSE, WELDON, LAWLER, LATHAM, GEARHART,
SIEGRIST, INGELS, THOMPSON, BLOM, GERHOLD, YOUNG,
KNIFF MCCULLA, BARKER, MOMMSEN, SMITH, KONFRST,
MATSON, NIELSEN, JAMES, ZABNER, JUDGE, SRINIVAS, and
WICHTENDAHL

1 A Concurrent Resolution calling upon the President of
2 the United States and the United States Congress
3 to support efforts to naturalize certain legally
4 adopted children who were born outside the United
5 States.
6 WHEREAS, the state of Iowa has a long history of
7 welcoming children through international adoptions; and
8 WHEREAS, all Iowans benefit from removing barriers
9 to United States citizenship for adoptees who were born
10 outside the United States; and
11 WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000,
12 Pub. L. No. 106-395, provided automatic citizenship or
13 a simple path to citizenship for certain children
14 who were born outside the United States, including
15 children legally adopted by a United States citizen
16 (adoptees); and
17 WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act did not provide
18 citizenship to adoptees who were over eighteen years
19 of age at the time the Child Citizenship Act became
20 effective, and as a result, a significant number of
21 adoptees remain without citizenship and are potentially
22 subject to deportation despite being raised by United
23 States citizens; and
24 WHEREAS, dozens of adoptees have been deported

1 because they are not citizens, breaking up families
2 and returning the adoptees to lands to which the
3 adoptees have no cultural or social ties, including
4 Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica,
5 Germany, El Salvador, India, Ireland, Haiti, Iran,
6 Japan, Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, Russia, South
7 Korea, St. Kitts, Taiwan, Ukraine, and Vietnam; and

8 WHEREAS, adoptees who are unable to obtain United
9 States citizenship face numerous challenges, including
10 barriers to banking services, voting, passports,
11 driver's licenses, social security or disability
12 benefits, financial aid for postsecondary education,
13 and entry into the armed forces; and

14 WHEREAS, Congress has been working to pass the
15 Adoptee Citizenship Act which would grant citizenship
16 to adoptees who were eighteen years of age or
17 older on the date the Child Citizenship Act became
18 effective; and

19 WHEREAS, passage of the Adoptee Citizenship Act
20 will result in the naturalization of many adoptees
21 who were brought to the United States as children
22 under the promise of finding a permanent home, and the
23 expectation of United States citizenship; and

24 WHEREAS, efforts to provide citizenship to adoptees
25 who were excluded from the Child Citizenship Act have
26 seen bipartisan support in Congress and have received
27 widespread praise from the country's leading adoption
28 advocacy organizations; NOW THEREFORE,

29 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
30 THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly of

1 the State of Iowa calls upon the President of the
2 United States and the United States Congress to support
3 efforts, including passage of the Adoptee Citizenship
4 Act, to provide citizenship to adoptees who were born
5 outside the United States and who were eighteen years
6 of age or older on the date the Child Citizenship Act
7 became effective.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
9 resolution be distributed to the President of the
10 United States, the President of the Senate of
11 the United States, the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives of the United States, the chairs and
13 ranking members of the committee on the judiciary
14 for the United States Senate and the Committee
15 on the Judiciary for the United States House
16 of Representatives, and to each member of Iowa's
17 congressional delegation.