

House Resolution 14 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

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

1 and returning the adoptees to lands to which the
2 adoptees have no cultural or social ties, including
3 Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica,
4 Germany, El Salvador, India, Ireland, Haiti, Iran,
5 Japan, Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, Russia, South
6 Korea, St. Kitts, Taiwan, Ukraine, and Vietnam; and

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

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

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

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

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
29 the House of Representatives calls upon the President
30 of the United States and the United States Congress

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

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

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