

House Resolution 194

By: Representatives Nguyen of the 89th, Dreyer of the 59th, Park of the 101st, Lopez Romero of the 99th, Marin of the 96th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the contributions of immigrants and refugees in Georgia; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, according to the 2016 New American Economy Report, one in ten Georgia
4 residents is an immigrant and 991,168 Georgia residents were born abroad, giving Georgia
5 the 9th largest immigration population in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, according to the American Immigration Council, nearly 40 percent of farmers,
7 fishers, and foresters and 25 percent of computer and math employees in Georgia are
8 immigrants; and

9 WHEREAS, nearly one in seven workers in Georgia is an immigrant and more than 75
10 percent of the foreign-born population is working aged, making impactful contributions to
11 Georgia's economy through the labor force; and

12 WHEREAS, immigrant-owned businesses employ 136,000 workers in Georgia, the annual
13 spending power of Georgia's immigrants is \$23 billion, and their contribution in federal,
14 state, and local taxes is \$8 billion per year; and

15 WHEREAS, 41 percent of Fortune 500 companies based in Georgia were founded by
16 immigrants or their children, generating \$207.6 billion in annual revenue and employing
17 864,644 people globally; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, foreign-born Georgians
19 own an estimated 31 percent of Georgia's main street businesses, account for 10 percent of
20 nurses and medical assistants, 30 percent of psychiatrists, and 23 percent of doctors; and

21 WHEREAS, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, undocumented
22 Georgians contributed an estimated \$352 million in state and local taxes in 2014 and more
23 than \$552 million in federal taxes each year; and

24 WHEREAS, young Georgians brought to the country as children earn approximately \$800
25 million a year in wages and contribute an estimated \$66 million in state and local taxes; and

26 WHEREAS, these contributions bolster Georgia's local and state economies, as immigrants
27 and refugees play a critical role as workers in high demand sectors of Georgia's economy,
28 small business owners, and entrepreneurs, and they fill significant workforce gaps; and

29 WHEREAS, while the economic contributions of immigrants and refugees in Georgia cannot
30 be missed, the positive impacts of a diverse population that enriches Georgia's culture and
31 society should also be praised; and

32 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding contributions and
33 accomplishments of immigrants and refugees in Georgia be appropriately recognized.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body recognize and commend immigrants and refugees in Georgia for
36 their innumerable contributions to the state's culture and economy.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 public and the press.