

## House Resolution 402

By: Representatives Park of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Werkheiser of the 157<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Holcomb of the 81<sup>st</sup>, 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 or children adopted by United States citizens. However, when  
6 the act became law, it did not apply to internationally-born adoptees who were already over  
7 the age of 18; and

8 WHEREAS, an estimated tens of thousands of adult legal adoptees of U.S. citizens who were  
9 born before February 27, 1982, and raised in the United States, and in particular, Georgia are  
10 still undocumented, and therefore potentially subject to possible deportation. These adoptees'  
11 parents did not complete necessary processes to provide their adopted children with  
12 citizenship, or in many cases, even a green card; and

13 WHEREAS, several deportations of individuals who were legally adopted by U.S. citizens  
14 have already taken place, breaking up families and returning the deported individuals to  
15 places where they were born but have no family, language ability, or a means to support,  
16 placing themselves at risk of homelessness, poverty, and death; and

17 WHEREAS, adoptees who do not have citizenship have come from countries throughout the  
18 world including Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Guatemala, El  
19 Salvador, Haiti, India, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Taiwan,  
20 Ukraine, and Vietnam. There are approximately 18,000 Korean American adoptees alone  
21 whose citizenship has not yet been confirmed despite being legally adopted by U.S. citizens;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation, the Adoptee Citizenship Act, was introduced in the 114th  
24 and 115th Congresses, and will be introduced in the 116th Congress to close a loophole in

25 the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 that has prevented internationally adopted children, who  
26 are now adults, from receiving United States citizenship despite being raised by American  
27 parents; and

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

35 WHEREAS, naturalization of adult adoptees who immigrated to America under the promise  
36 of finding a permanent home is necessary to ensure they are not forcibly removed from what  
37 has become their home country; and

38 WHEREAS, Georgia does not condone the deportation of individuals who were legally  
39 adopted into American homes and should have every expectation that their citizenship  
40 matches that of their adoptive parents. Further, Georgia welcomes broad legislation that will  
41 provide a pathway to citizenship for all adult adoptees whose adoptive parents did not  
42 complete the naturalization process while they were children.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
44 the members of this body urge the President of the United States and the United States  
45 Congress to enact legislation securing the citizenship of internationally adopted adult  
46 individuals.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
48 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
49 President of the United States and to each member of Congress.