

House Resolution 715

By: Representatives Carpenter of the 4th, Lopez of the 86th, Werkheiser of the 157th, Bonner of the 72nd, Kausche of the 50th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 10, 2022, as New Americans Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, for nearly a decade, New Americans Day celebrations have brought hundreds
4 of new Americans, friends, and community supporters to the state capitol annually for a day
5 of education and celebration and have engaged hundreds virtually during the COVID-19
6 pandemic; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia has a long history of extending welcome to refugees from around the
8 world, giving them an opportunity to live, work, and thrive in the state; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to more than one million immigrants, who represent
10 approximately 10 percent of the state's population and contribute to Georgia's unique culture
11 and diversity; and

12 WHEREAS, 41.9 percent of Georgia's foreign-born population are naturalized citizens of the
13 United States; and

14 WHEREAS, one in seven Georgia workers is foreign-born, as are one in five doctors and
15 home health aides; one in five science and technology professionals; and one in three
16 self-employed business owners, who employ more than 200,000 Georgians and generate
17 more than \$33 billion in sale revenue annually; and

18 WHEREAS, hardworking foreign-born Georgians across all sectors paid over \$10 billion in
19 federal, state, and local taxes and held more than \$29 billion in spending power in 2019; and

20 WHEREAS, foreign-born Georgians have never been more essential to the state than during
21 the current COVID-19 pandemic, serving in disproportionate numbers in front line jobs such
22 as hospitals and assisted living facilities, farms and food processing plants, warehouses and
23 delivery services, and more; and

24 WHEREAS, since the withdrawal of United States forces from Afghanistan in August 2021,
25 Georgia has welcomed more than 1,000 evacuated Afghan allies who supported the United
26 States, providing them with refuge through deeply challenging circumstances; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia is a welcoming home for peoples of all origins and from all walks of
28 life, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that these new Americans be appropriately
29 recognized.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body recognize and commend the manifold contributions of immigrants
32 to the State of Georgia and recognize February 10, 2022, as New Americans Day at the state
33 capitol.

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