

## Senate Resolution 219

By: Senators Anavitarte of the 31st, Esteves of the 6th, Watson of the 1st, Still of the 48th, Albers of the 56th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 14, 2023, as New Americans Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, for the past ten years, 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 more virtually during the  
6 COVID-19 pandemic; and

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

9 WHEREAS, today, one in ten Georgians—more than one million people—are foreign-born,  
10 bringing valuable skills and talents from countries around the world to the state; and

11 WHEREAS, one in seven Georgia workers is foreign-born, as are one in five doctors and  
12 home health aides; one in five science and technology professionals; one in five  
13 manufacturing workers; and one in three skilled tradespeople in the construction industry;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, foreign-born Georgians are 41 percent more likely than others to start new  
16 businesses in the state, and their businesses generate nearly \$2 billion in business income  
17 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  
20 alone; and

21 WHEREAS, nearly half of all foreign-born Georgians are already naturalized United States  
22 citizens eligible to vote and many more are on the path toward citizenship; and

23 WHEREAS, foreign-born Georgians were never more essential to the state than during the  
24 COVID-19 pandemic, serving in disproportionate numbers in front line jobs in hospitals and  
25 assisted living facilities, farms and food processing plants, warehouses and delivery services,  
26 and more; and

27 WHEREAS, since the withdrawal of United States forces from Afghanistan in August 2021  
28 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Georgia has provided refuge to thousands and  
29 granted humanitarian parole to escape those countries and come to safety in the United  
30 States, including many who risked their lives to support the United States' mission overseas;  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Georgia has one of the oldest and most successful refugee programs in the  
33 United States, with approximately 90 percent of refugees economically self-sufficient within  
34 six months; and

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

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
39 recognize and commend the manifold contributions of immigrants to the State of Georgia  
40 and recognize February 14, 2023, as New Americans Day at the state capitol.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
42 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
43 press.