

Senate Resolution 285

By: Senators Karinshak of the 48th and Rahman of the 5th

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to enact
2 legislation securing the citizenship of internationally adopted adult individuals; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 aimed to provide equal treatment under
5 United States law for adopted and biological children by granting citizenship to
6 internationally-born adoptees or children adopted by U.S. Citizens. However, when the act
7 became law, it did not apply to internationally-born adoptees who were already over the age
8 of 18; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, adoptees who do not have citizenship come from countries throughout the
19 world including Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Guatemala, El
20 Salvador, Haiti, Iran, India, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Taiwan,
21 Ukraine, and Vietnam; and

22 WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation, the Adoptee Citizenship Act, was introduced in the 114th
23 and 115th Congresses, and will be introduced in the 116th Congress to close a loophole in
24 the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 that has prevented internationally adopted children, who

25 are now adults, from receiving United States citizenship despite being raised by American
26 parents; and

27 WHEREAS, the bills seek to grant automatic citizenship to all qualifying children adopted
28 by a U.S. citizen parent, regardless of their age; and

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

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

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 join together to encourage the President of the United States and the United States Congress
39 to enact legislation securing the citizenship of internationally adopted adult individuals.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the President of
42 the United States and to each member of the United States Congress.