

1 A RESOLUTION urging the President of the United States and the United States
2 Congress to enact legislation securing the citizenship of internationally adopted adult
3 individuals.

4 WHEREAS, since the close of World War II over 350,000 children have been
5 adopted from abroad by United States citizen parents; and

6 WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, passed by the 106th Congress,
7 aimed to provide equal treatment under United States law for adopted and biological
8 children by granting citizenship for internationally born adoptees; and

9 WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 did not apply to international
10 adoptees who were over the age of 18 when the Act became law; and

11 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of legally adopted individuals born before February
12 27th, 1983, and raised in the United States or who did not enter on an "orphan visa" do
13 not have United States citizenship and therefore are potentially subject to deportation; and

14 WHEREAS, these adoptees' parents did not complete the necessary processes to
15 provide their adopted children with citizenship or, in many cases, even a green card; and

16 WHEREAS, the deportation of legally adopted individuals has occurred, breaking
17 up families and returning these individuals to places where they do not know the
18 language, culture, or have any known family members; and

19 WHEREAS, the individuals who do not have citizenship were adopted from various
20 countries including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Guatemala, El
21 Salvador, India, Ireland, Haiti, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Russia,
22 Ukraine, and Vietnam; and

23 WHEREAS, two bills which would have granted citizenship to certain adult
24 adoptees were introduced with bipartisan support in the 115th Congress: the Adoptee
25 Citizenship Act of 2018 (S. 2522) and the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018 (H.R. 5233).
26 Neither bill was referred out of committee for a Congressional vote; and

27 WHEREAS, both bills sought to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to

1 grant automatic citizenship to all qualifying children adopted by a U.S. citizen parent,
2 regardless of the date on which the adoption was finalized or the entrance visa; and

3 WHEREAS, citizenship would be granted to any individual who was adopted by a
4 U.S. citizen before age 18, was physically present in the United States in the citizen
5 parent's legal custody pursuant to lawful admission before the individual reached age 18,
6 never previously acquired U.S. citizenship, and was lawfully residing in the United
7 States; and

8 WHEREAS, major cities such as Seattle, Los Angeles, Houston, and Philadelphia
9 have already passed resolutions in support of adoptee citizenship, as well as the state of
10 California; and

11 WHEREAS, citizenship is a civil right of all children adopted by a U.S. citizen
12 parent; and

13 WHEREAS, children adopted by U.S. citizen parents should have the same rights
14 as children of U.S. citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, this civil right should be protected by legislation that provides
16 automatic citizenship for all adult adoptees whose adoptive parents did not complete the
17 naturalization process while they were children;

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

19 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
20 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

21 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives respectfully urge the
22 President of the United States and United States Congress to enact legislation securing
23 the citizenship of internationally adopted adult individuals.

24 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this
25 Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States of America, the
26 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United
27 States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the

- 1 Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and each member of the Kentucky
- 2 Congressional Delegation.