



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31781

Record No.: Res 31781

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 1

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 11/20/2017

Final Action: 11/20/2017

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

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Sawant

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: jodee.schwinn@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

| Ver- sion: | Acting Body: | Date: | Action: | Sent To: | Due Date: | Return Date: | Result: |
|------------|--|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| 1 | City Clerk | 11/20/2017 | sent for review | Council President's Office | | | |
| | Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office Notes: | | | | | | |
| 1 | Council President's Office | 11/20/2017 | sent for review | Full Council | | | |
| | Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Full Council Notes: | | | | | | |
| 1 | Full Council | 11/20/2017 | referred | Full Council | | | |
| | Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the Full Council Notes: | | | | | | |
| 1 | Full Council | 11/20/2017 | adopted | | | | Pass |
| | Action Text: The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution: Notes: Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31781. | | | | | | |

Legislative Summary Continued (Res 31781)

In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González , Council
President Harrell, Councilmember Harris-Talley, Councilmember
Herbold, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Juarez,
Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

1 City Clerk 11/20/2017 attested by City Clerk
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.
Notes:

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31781

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

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

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

WHEREAS, several deportations of individuals who were legally adopted from foreign countries have already taken place, breaking up families and returning the deported individuals to places where they were born but have no other connections; and

WHEREAS, adoptees who do not have citizenship have come from countries including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Guatemala, El Salvador, India, Ireland, Haiti, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Ukraine, and Vietnam. There are an estimated 18,000 Korean American adoptees alone who do not have American citizenship despite having been legally adopted; and

WHEREAS, two bills which would have granted citizenship to adult adoptees were introduced with bipartisan support in the 114th Congress: the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2015

1 (S.2275), and the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2016 (H.R.5454). Neither bill was referred
2 out of committee for a Congressional vote; and

3 WHEREAS, both bills sought to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to grant automatic
4 citizenship to all qualifying children adopted by a U.S. citizen parent, regardless of the
5 date on which the adoption was finalized. Citizenship would be granted to any individual
6 who was adopted by a U.S. citizen before age 18, was physically present in the United
7 States in the citizen parent's legal custody pursuant to a lawful admission before the
8 individual reached age 18, never previously acquired U.S. citizenship, and was lawfully
9 residing in the United States. The bills also would have given adult adoptees who had
10 already been deported the opportunity to return to the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, to date, no similar legislation has been introduced in the 115th Congress during
12 President Trump's term; and

13 WHEREAS, naturalization of adult adoptees who immigrated to the United States under the
14 promise of finding a permanent home is necessary to ensure that they are not forcibly
15 removed from what has become their home country; NOW, THEREFORE,

16 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

17 Section 1. The Seattle City Council supports, as a civil right, automatic citizenship to all
18 qualifying children adopted by a U.S. citizen parent, regardless of the date on which the adoption
19 was finalized. The Seattle City Council does not condone the deportation of individuals who
20 were adopted into American homes and should have every expectation that their citizenship
21 matches that of their adoptive parents. The Seattle City Council additionally welcomes
22 legislation that will provide citizenship for adult adoptees whose adoptive parents did not
23 complete the naturalization process while they were children.

1 Section 2. The Seattle City Council urges the United States Congress and the President of
2 the United States to enact legislation securing the citizenship of all internationally adopted adult
3 individuals. The Seattle City Council requests that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations
4 communicate this to Seattle’s Congressional Delegation and to the Office of the President.

5

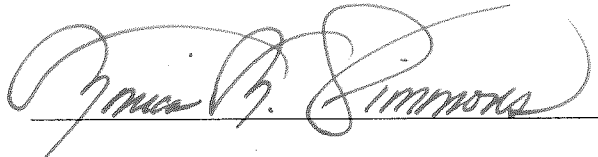
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1 Adopted by the City Council the 20th day of NOVEMBER, 2017,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 20th day of
3 NOVEMBER, 2017.

4 

5 President _____ of the City Council

6 Filed by me this 20th day of NOVEMBER, 2017.

7 

8 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

9 (Seal)