

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: june 25, 2018

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst Council File No: 18-0002-S72
Assignment No: 18-06-0566

SUBJECT: Resolution to SUPPORT H.R. 5233 and S. 2522, and similar legislation, which would grant citizenship to those adopted by U.S. citizens as children.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Ryu - Buscaino) to include in the City's 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Program, SUPPORT for H.R. 5233 (Smith) and S. 2522 (Blunt), and any similar legislation, which would automatically grant citizenship to those adopted by U.S. citizens as children.

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Ryu - Buscaino), introduced June 8, 2018, advises that the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 guaranteed citizenship to adoptees under the age of 18 who were adopted by American citizens but did not apply to adoptees over the age of 18 when the law went into effect. South Korea's Health Ministry has estimated 18,603 Korean adoptees who were brought to the U.S. do not currently have citizenship. Furthermore, it is estimated that 35,000 international adoptees in the U.S. do not currently have U.S. citizenship.

The Resolution further advises that currently before Congress is H.R. 5233 (Smith) and S. 2522 (Blunt) which would grant citizenship to those who were born outside of the U.S. and adopted as children by U.S. citizens. The bipartisan bill would grant citizenship to those who have been raised in the U.S. and lack citizenship through no fault of their own.

The Resolution recommends that the City support H.R. 5233 and S. 2522.

BACKGROUND

In 2001, Congress enacted the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (CCA) which granted automatic citizenship to international adoptees who were under the age of 18 at the time the law took effect. Adoptees who already resided in the United States over the age of 18 were excluded from the citizenship provided by the law. In addition, international adoptees who were brought to the United States prior to the finalization of their adoption or on visitor or non-immigrant visas were not provided a path to citizenship under the CCA.

This oversight in the CCA has left thousands of internationally adopted individuals facing difficulty applying for a passport, driver's license, or student financial aid. They are prohibited from voting and even face danger of deportation, despite having no knowledge of their country of origin. According to the Adoptee Rights Campaign, there are currently 4,650 international adoptees without citizenship in California, many of whom may also remain unaware of their lack of citizenship.

H.R. 5233 and S. 2522, the Adoptee Citizenship Act, would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow for international adoptees who are currently over the age of 18 and reside in the United States to be automatically granted citizenship pursuant to the CCA.

Support for H.R. 5233 and S. 2522 is consistent with City efforts to afford equal access to government services and provide City residents with safety from deportation.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None

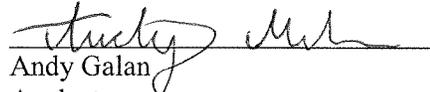
BILL STATUS

H.R. 5233

03/08/18	Introduced
03/08/18	Read twice and referred to Committee on the Judiciary
04/30/18	Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security

S. 2522

03/08/18	Introduced
03/08/18	Read twice and referred to Committee on the Judiciary


Andy Galan
Analyst

Attachments: 1. Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 guaranteed automatic citizenship to adoptees under the age of 18 who were born outside of the U.S. and adopted by American citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act did not apply to individuals who were adopted as children, but were over the age of 18 at the time the law went into effect; and

WHEREAS, South Korea's Health Ministry has estimated that 18,603 Korean adoptees who have been brought into the U.S. do not currently have U.S. citizenship; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 35,000 international adoptees in the U.S. are currently living without American citizenship; and

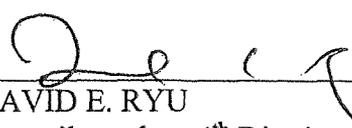
WHEREAS, currently before Congress is a bill, HR 5233 (Smith) and S 2522 (Blunt), the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018, which would grant citizenship to those who were born outside of the U.S. and were adopted as children by U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, this is a bipartisan bill, which has been sponsored and introduced by members of Congress from both parties; and

WHEREAS, this bill would grant citizenship to those who have been raised in America by Americans and lack citizenship through no fault of their own;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Program support for HR 5233 (Smith), S 2522 (Blunt), and any similar legislation, which would automatically grant citizenship to those adopted by U.S. citizens as children.

PRESENTED BY


DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY

