

Senator Jani Iwamoto proposes the following substitute bill:

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR  
INTERNATIONALLY ADOPTED INDIVIDUALS**

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jani Iwamoto**

House Sponsor: Robert M. Spendlove

7	Cosponsors:	Lincoln Fillmore	Todd D. Weiler
8	Jacob L. Anderegg	Derek L. Kitchen	Ronald M. Winterton
9	Gene Davis	Kathleen A. Riebe	
	Luz Escamilla		

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution encourages United States Congress and the President of the United States to support congressional efforts related to legally adopted internationally born individuals and encourages certain state agencies to support adopted children in accessing adoption resources.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ describes the value of international adoption;
- ▶ outlines the technical oversight in federal law that excluded legally adopted internationally-born individuals from receiving automatic United States citizenship;
- ▶ addresses the challenges that internationally-adopted children who are excluded from United States citizenship face under current law;



- 24           ▶ describes the mental health needs of adopted children;
- 25           ▶ describes the need for federal legislation to address the technical oversight in federal
- 26 law; and
- 27           ▶ encourages:
  - 28           • Utah's health and education systems to support adopted children in accessing
  - 29 adoption resources; and
  - 30           • United States Congress and the President of the United States to support
  - 31 congressional efforts to address the technical oversight in federal law.

32 **Special Clauses:**

33           None



35 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

36           WHEREAS, the state of Utah has a long history of welcoming children through

37 international adoption;

38           WHEREAS, all Utahns benefit from the removal of barriers to citizenship attained

39 through international adoption;

40           WHEREAS, in 2000, federal legislation aimed to provide automatic United States

41 citizenship to all internationally-born children of United States citizens, subject to certain

42 requirements;

43           WHEREAS, the federal legislation contained a technical oversight that prevents

44 internationally-born individuals who were adopted by United States citizens as children but

45 were over 18 years old at the time the federal legislation passed from receiving United States

46 citizenship under the federal legislation;

47           WHEREAS, as a result of the technical oversight, an estimated tens of thousands of

48 legally adopted internationally-born individuals born before February 27, 1983, remain without

49 citizenship and potentially subject to deportation despite being adopted and raised by United

50 States citizens;

51           WHEREAS, the technical oversight has caused dozens of known deportations of legally

52 adopted internationally-born individuals, breaking up families and resulting in the return of the

53 individuals to countries to which the individuals do not have any cultural or social ties;

54           WHEREAS, United States' legal international adoptees have been deported to countries

55 such as Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, El Salvador, India, Ireland,  
56 Haiti, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, St. Kitts, Taiwan,  
57 Ukraine, and Vietnam;

58 WHEREAS, legally adopted internationally-born individuals who are unable to obtain  
59 citizenship face numerous challenges, including challenges in accessing banking services,  
60 voting, applying for a passport or driver license, receiving social security or disability benefits,  
61 obtaining financial aid for postsecondary education, and joining the armed forces;

62 WHEREAS, legally adopted internationally-born individuals are often English  
63 language learners and face significant challenges throughout education systems;

64 WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown that adoptee populations are  
65 overrepresented in mental health counseling needs, experience increased risk of substance use  
66 disorders, and are uniquely impacted by various other mental health disorders that can stem  
67 from high levels of childhood stress;

68 WHEREAS, congressional efforts have been made to correct the technical oversight  
69 and grant United States citizenship to legally adopted internationally-born individuals who  
70 were excluded under the technical oversight because the individuals were older than 18 years  
71 old at the time the federal legislation passed;

72 WHEREAS, passage of federal legislation to address the technical oversight will result  
73 in the naturalization of legally adopted internationally-born adults who were brought as  
74 children to the United States under the promise of finding a permanent home and with the  
75 expectation of citizenship that matched the adults' adopted parents;

76 WHEREAS, congressional efforts to correct the technical oversight have seen  
77 bipartisan support in United States Congress and have widespread praise among the nation's  
78 leading adoption advocacy organizations:

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
80 Governor concurring therein, encourages United States Congress and the President of the  
81 United States to support any current or future congressional efforts intended to address the  
82 technical oversight in the federal legislation passed in 2000.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage Utah's  
84 health and education systems to screen for the developmental needs of all adopted children and  
85 assist Utah families with accessing available resources for adopted children.

86           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Utah's  
87 congressional delegation, the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
88 majority leader of the United States Senate, the chairs and ranking members of the United  
89 States Senate and House of Representatives Judiciary Committees, and the President of the  
90 United States.