

MAR 05 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DEMANDING THAT THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES WITHDRAW ITS PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE NATURALIZATION FEE AND TO ELIMINATE FULL AND PARTIAL NATURALIZATION FEE WAIVERS FOR LOWER-INCOME AND WORKING FAMILY LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the United States has thrived because, for
2 centuries, it has attracted entrepreneurial newcomers from
3 around the globe who believe in and have furthered American
4 ideals of democracy and opportunity; and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii derives direct economic, social, and
7 cultural benefits from the activities and achievements of its
8 immigrant communities; and

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10 WHEREAS, naturalized citizens are particularly important
11 contributors to the strength and prosperity of the entire nation
12 and the State; and

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14 WHEREAS, naturalization is associated with increased
15 income, employment, and homeownership, which enhance
16 opportunities for naturalized citizens and confer benefits upon
17 the State; and

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19 WHEREAS, Latino and Asian-American naturalized citizens
20 vote at higher rates than their native-born counterparts; and

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22 WHEREAS, naturalized citizens serve in critical and
23 sensitive leadership positions in the Armed Services of the
24 United States, elected offices, and other influential positions;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, our nation's promotion of United States
28 citizenship among eligible lawful permanent residents bolsters
29 our integrity by demonstrating a national commitment to valuing



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1 each person who shares American ideals and abides by the
2 nation's laws; and

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4 WHEREAS, in light of the significant benefits that
5 naturalization confers on all Americans, Congress, state, and
6 local government officials have long demanded that
7 naturalization remain accessible and affordable; and

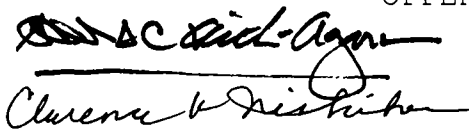
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9 WHEREAS, the Legislature supports policies that encourage
10 naturalization and increase the rate of naturalization among
11 eligible lawful legal permanent residents; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Legislature calls for a naturalization
14 application process and fees that ensure that citizenship is
15 attainable by any eligible person regardless of income; now,
16 therefore,

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18 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature demands that the United
19 States Citizenship and Immigration Services withdraw its
20 proposals, published in the Federal Register for comment on
21 November 14, 2019, to increase the naturalization fee by eighty-
22 three percent and to eliminate full and partial naturalization
23 fee waivers for lower-income and working family lawful permanent
24 residents; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
28 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; President of
29 the United States; Majority Leader of the United States Senate;
30 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and
31 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:


Clarence K. Disbrow

