

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



February 26, 2001

## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE CHILD CITIZENSHIP ACT

Dear Colleague:

Tomorrow marks the effective date of the Child Citizenship Act (Public Law No. 106-395), a bipartisan initiative enacted last session to confer automatic U.S. citizenship on children adopted from abroad, and on many other foreign-born children of American parents.

At midnight tonight, more than 150,000 children-including at least 75,000 adopted from abroad-will become American citizens by operation of law, with some 20,000 more qualifying for automatic citizenship each year.

To mark this milestone in the lives of these parents and children, we will be participating in a major event at historic Faneuil Hall in Boston, with related celebrations taking place across the country. Joining us in Boston will be Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Representative Henry J. Hyde of Illinois. And celebrating the day in his home state of Texas will be Representative Lamar Smith. Without their steadfast support this legislation could not have become law.

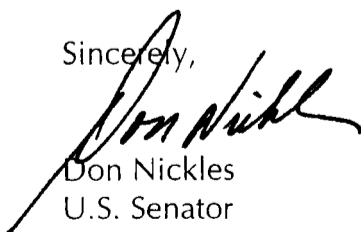
The Child Citizenship Act grants automatic citizenship to all foreign-born children who are under 18 years of age, admitted to the United States as lawful permanent residents, and in the legal and physical custody of at least one U.S.-citizen parent.

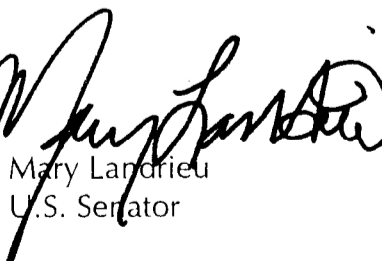
As of tomorrow, they need no longer face the frustrating, time-consuming process they must endure today in seeking to acquire U.S. citizenship. For adoptive families in particular, who have already overcome so many obstacles to bring their children to America, the naturalization process is an extra burden they shouldn't have to bear. Once their adoptions are finalized and they arrive in the United States, these children are Americans and should be treated as such.

Thanks to this new law, they will be. As of tomorrow, they will require no documentation of any kind to attest to their new status. Those who need or wish to obtain a passport may do so using the same procedures available to children born in the United States. And for those who may wish to obtain a certificate of citizenship (though none will be required), we are working with the INS to develop a simplified and streamlined system for doing so.

This new law affects families in every state and every congressional district in America. We hope you will join them in celebrating this wonderful occasion.

Sincerely,

  
Don Nickles  
U.S. Senator

  
Mary Landrieu  
U.S. Senator

  
Bill Delahunt  
Member of Congress