

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 221

Reps. MacDonell, Arbit, Weiss, Coffia, Breen, Mentzer, Paiz, Byrnes, Price, Martus, Brixie, Dievendorf, Morgan, Xiong, McKinney, Rheingans and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the federal government to reverse course
2 on expediting denaturalization through civil proceedings.

3 Whereas, Under Section 340 of the Immigration and Nationality
4 Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1451, a United States attorney may institute civil
5 proceedings to revoke the order naturalizing a citizen if the
6 individual's U.S. citizenship was "illegally procured" or was
7 "procured by concealment of a material fact or by willful
8 misrepresentation." Notably, individuals subject to
9 denaturalization via civil proceedings do not have a constitutional
10 right to an attorney or to a trial by jury. The burden of proof in
11 civil denaturalization cases is "clear, unequivocal, and convincing
12 evidence," which may be a lesser standard than the "proof beyond a

1 reasonable doubt" required in criminal cases; and

2 Whereas, The United States Department of Justice released a
3 memorandum on June 11, 2025, advising attorneys in its Civil
4 Division to "prioritize and maximally pursue" the civil
5 denaturalization of naturalized citizens over various types of
6 alleged unlawful activity. The memorandum gives the Civil Division
7 concerningly broad latitude over which naturalized citizens to
8 target for denaturalization and deportation, including those who
9 have not been accused of any crime, stating in relevant part that
10 the Division should prioritize "[a]ny other cases referred to the
11 Civil Division that the Division determines to be sufficiently
12 important to pursue"; and

13 Whereas, Certain legal experts have warned that conducting
14 denaturalization proceedings solely via civil litigation could be
15 an unconstitutional violation of naturalized citizens' due process
16 rights. The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United
17 States provides, in relevant part, that "[n]o person shall . . . be
18 deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law
19" This includes both procedural due process, which requires
20 individuals to be offered certain procedural protections if the
21 government seeks to deprive them of a protected interest, and
22 substantive due process, which protects fundamental rights from
23 governmental interference. Legal experts have advised that the
24 weaker procedural protections in civil litigation, as opposed to
25 criminal proceedings, are constitutionally insufficient to satisfy
26 procedural due process, and that the government's interests in
27 regulating naturalization and immigration can be achieved through
28 other, more narrowly tailored means; and

29 Whereas, According to recent representative polling,

1 overwhelming majorities of Americans do not support the
2 denaturalization of naturalized citizens. In one poll, 70 percent
3 of respondents indicated that the President should not have the
4 power to revoke the citizenship of naturalized citizens, and in
5 another, 64 percent of respondents expressed the opinion that the
6 federal government should not have the power to invalidate the
7 citizenship of naturalized citizens; and

8 Whereas, Civil denaturalization has the potential to be
9 misused. Powerful elected officials, including the President of the
10 United States and multiple members of Congress, have called for the
11 investigation, denaturalization, or deportation of naturalized
12 citizens simply because they express viewpoints that those in power
13 disagree with. Any attempt on the part of the federal government to
14 denaturalize individuals for engaging in constitutionally protected
15 free speech is fundamentally at odds with our nation's most sacred
16 values; and

17 Whereas, In context, the Department of Justice's decision is
18 properly understood as part of the Trump Administration's effort to
19 demonize immigrants, including naturalized citizens, by associating
20 them with criminality, when, in fact, naturalized citizens commit
21 crimes at lower rates than native-born citizens. Given the wide
22 latitude granted to U.S. Attorneys in this memorandum, the
23 Department of Justice does not seem to be focused on improving
24 public safety. Rather, the purpose of this policy seems to be
25 communicating that naturalized citizens are not welcome in the
26 United States; and

27 Whereas, Michigan is home to over 400,000 naturalized citizens
28 who are valued members of our state. Many naturalized citizens work
29 and pay taxes for years, or even decades, before attaining their

1 citizenship, making significant contributions to our economy and
2 culture. Meaningful numbers of Michigan's immigrants work in
3 sectors of the workforce suffering from chronic worker shortages,
4 such as healthcare. Naturalized citizens play a key role in
5 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research
6 and development, which is essential for sustaining Michigan's
7 global competitiveness, and many companies important to the United
8 States were founded by immigrants. Our naturalized citizens should
9 not have to live their lives with a cloud of uncertainty hanging
10 over them, plagued by fears of civil denaturalization proceedings
11 that could be brought at any time and for any reason, including
12 political reasons; and

13 Whereas, Naturalized citizenship is not second-class
14 citizenship. Once attained, it is not a privilege that can be
15 revoked arbitrarily or capriciously. Naturalized citizens have the
16 same constitutional rights as native-born citizens, including the
17 right to receive due process before being deprived of life,
18 liberty, or property; now, therefore, be it

19 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
20 federal government to reverse course on expediting denaturalization
21 through civil proceedings; and be it further

22 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
23 President of the United States, the Attorney General of the United
24 States, the United States Secretary of State, and the members of
25 the Michigan congressional delegation.