

Immigration Subcommittee Meeting Statement
Ranking Member Tom McClintock
H.R. 681, For the Relief of Rebecca Trimble
Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. Chairman, I do not oppose the request for a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) report regarding the beneficiary of H.R. 681, Rebecca Trimble.

According to the materials provided to the Subcommittee by the bill's sponsor, Rep. Don Young, Rebecca Trimble is a 31-year-old married mother of two U.S. citizen children, who currently resides in Alaska and who has no immigration status. Mrs. Trimble's U.S. citizen husband is in the U.S. Army reserves and serves a remote part of Alaska as the only dentist for hundreds of miles.

Mrs. Trimble grew up believing she was a U.S. citizen. Her parents told her she was adopted, and it was not until 2012 when she tried to get a REAL ID driver's license, that she was told that her Mexican birth certificate did not prove she was a U.S. citizen despite having her U.S. citizen parents listed on it. Thus, Mrs. Trimble has no proof of the place of her own birth.

Mrs. Trimble's adoptive parents, the Wilsons, state that in 1989 they got word from some friends of theirs who were missionaries in Mexico, that there was a young woman wishing to put a baby up for adoption. They traveled to Mexico and agreed to adopt the baby.

The Wilsons never legally adopted the baby in Mexico. And they never completed any of the steps required at the time by the U.S. government to naturalize an internationally adopted child. The Wilsons did obtain a social security number for their daughter from the Social Security Administration and Mrs. Trimble later obtained a driver's license. The Mexican "birth certificate" provided to the Wilsons and which Trimble later used to try to establish identity, was found by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to have been "obtained unlawfully."

Mrs. Trimble's husband petitioned for a green card for his wife, but the green card was denied based on the fact that there is no proof of her citizenship in any country, there is no proof that she was legally adopted, and she does not qualify for an exception to the prohibition on a noncitizen voting in a federal election. Mrs. Trimble admits she voted in the 2008 presidential election after registering to do so and at the time having no reason to believe she was not a U.S. citizen. If Mrs. Trimble could prove she was legally adopted in her country of origin, she may qualify for an exception to the prohibition on a noncitizen voting in a federal election.

During the 108th Congress, a private bill was enacted for an individual whose parent never completed the paperwork required to naturalize an internationally adopted child. Thus, H.R. 681 likely falls under this Subcommittee's precedent for private bills.

That said, the text of H.R. 681 is not written in the manner

in which all other private immigration bills are historically written. For instance, the bill as drafted does not contain the preclusion on adjustment of status for any family member of the beneficiary based on the beneficiary's adjustment.

Should the DHS report come back showing no negative information, prior to moving H.R. 681 I will insist that the language of H.R. 681 be amended to reflect the longstanding ways private immigration bills have been drafted, and I appreciate the Chair's support with that endeavor.

I look forward to the results of the DHS report and I yield back.