

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 655

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The United States is home to nearly two million
2 immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa, more than half of whom arrived
3 in the U.S. from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Typically, these African immigrants have higher
6 levels of educational attainment than the nation's population as a
7 whole, and they are more likely to hold degrees in the in-demand
8 fields of science, technology, engineering, or math; moreover, they
9 are well-represented in such vital sectors of the economy as the
10 health care industry, which faces unprecedented levels of demand
11 for qualified professionals; and

12 WHEREAS, A 2018 report by the Partnership for a New American
13 Economy Research Fund notes the large number of African
14 entrepreneurs residing in the U.S.; of some 90,000, many are
15 involved in the broader transportation sector, and 5,700 are
16 employed in real estate and accounting; and

17 WHEREAS, While the U.S.-born population is aging, nearly
18 three-quarters of African immigrants are in the prime of their
19 working years; they also naturalize at high rates, and accordingly,
20 these individuals are well-positioned to fill gaps that are being
21 created by the retirement of baby boomers; and

22 WHEREAS, African immigrants also support numerous
23 U.S. businesses as consumers, especially in states that have
24 experienced high rates of immigration; in Texas, African immigrants

1 hold \$4.7 billion in spending power, and the total for the country
2 exceeds \$40 billion; they are an important source of revenue for
3 governments in many areas, and in just nine states, among them
4 Texas, Georgia, and Virginia, their state and local tax payments
5 exceeded half a billion dollars in 2015 alone; and

6 WHEREAS, Although the Sub-Saharan African immigrant
7 population is relatively small compared to other foreign-born
8 groups in the U.S., its members have an outsized impact in the
9 economy and the tax base, and they provide key support in the health
10 care sector and other industries in need of skilled professionals;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize the contributions of Sub-Saharan
14 African immigrants.