

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 35

Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi

August 20, 2007

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 35—Relative to Mrs. Jacqueline W. Coats.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 35, as introduced, Hayashi. Mrs. Jacqueline W. Coats.

This measure would respectfully request the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support S. 420, authored by Senator Diane Feinstein, which provides for Mrs. Jacqueline W. Coats, widow of Marlin Coats who was posthumously granted the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for bravery while attempting to save two drowning children, to obtain permanent resident status.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jacqueline W. Coats legally entered the United
2 States in August 2001 on a student visa. She met Marlin Coats in
3 February 2004, and on April 17, 2006, the couple married with
4 plans to start a family; and
5 WHEREAS, Weeks after their wedding, on May 10, 2006, Mr.
6 Coats signed a petition to confer lawful permanent residence upon
7 Mrs. Coats. However, Mr. Coats could not file the petition for his
8 wife, because he died four days later while attempting to save two
9 children from drowning in the Pacific Ocean; and
10 WHEREAS, On May 14, 2006, Mr. Coats, 29, and some of his
11 family were gathered on Ocean Beach in San Francisco, California,

1 when they heard two brothers, ages 11 and 14, calling for help as
2 they struggled in the surf; and

3 WHEREAS, A former lifeguard, Mr. Coats attempted to rescue
4 the two boys, but was caught in a riptide and drowned. The boys
5 were eventually brought safely ashore by a rescue crew; and

6 WHEREAS, On July 6, 2007, Mr. Coats was posthumously
7 granted the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund
8 Commission for his bravery, including a \$5,000 award that will
9 be donated to the Marlin Coats Memorial Fund established to
10 provide swimming lessons to children; and

11 WHEREAS, Since Mr. Coats died before he could complete
12 the immigration paperwork for Mrs. Coats, her petition is deemed
13 void under the law, and she now faces certain deportation from
14 the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, In order to prevent Mrs. Coats from being deported
16 as a result of her husband's untimely and heroic death, Senator
17 Diane Feinstein authored S. 420, which provides for Mrs. Coats
18 to obtain permanent resident status; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by Assembly and the Senate of the State of California,*
20 *jointly,* That the California Legislature respectfully requests the
21 President of the United States and the United States Congress to
22 support S. 420, authored by Senator Diane Feinstein, which
23 provides for Mrs. Jacqueline W. Coats to obtain permanent resident
24 status; and be it further

25 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
26 of this resolution to the President of the United States and to all
27 Members of the Congress of the United States.