



## CRSA and the BIG Partnership Applaud House Higher Education Committee for Hearing on H.B. 932

**ATLANTA (February 25, 2022)** — For nearly five decades, Georgia has welcomed refugees fleeing war and allies who risked their lives to support U.S. troops abroad. On Wednesday, a cross-section of members of Georgia's veteran, business, faith, refugee and immigrant communities voiced their support for House Bill 932 to help refugees and foreign-born allies resume their educations here in Georgia.

**Georgia is the only state that these individuals have ever called home. H.B. 932 would recognize these students as Georgia's own and ensure that they have access to the education they need in order to thrive.**

The CRSA and BIG Partnership thank Chairman Chuck Martin for the opportunity to have a hearing on H.B. 932 and thank Representative Wes Cantrell and all lawmakers who expressed bipartisan support for this important bill. Here are some highlights from lawmakers at Wednesday's hearing:

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"These folks are here... and we should not put up artificial hurdles to them getting educated, finding good jobs, owning businesses, and becoming productive members of our society... They know Georgia's a great place to live, work, and raise a family, and we want to give them every opportunity to reach their full potential, and that's the goal behind H.B. 932." — **Rep. Wes Cantrell (R-22)**, Chief Sponsor of H.B. 932

"I think it's a common-sense way to address economic development concerns as well, to make sure that we're got residents who are contributing to our economy at their full potential." — **Rep. Betsy Holland (D-54)**

"It's not only the right thing, but it's a good thing for Georgia and it makes sense." — **Rep. Dale Washburn (R-141)**

"I deployed in the fall of 2001 at the start of the operation, and the role that these individuals played at great risk to themselves and to their families, it's something that made an incredible difference to everybody who deployed for that conflict over the last 20 years. I'm fully supportive of what you're doing." — **Rep. Scott Holcomb (D-81)**

"Is it not true that a lot of our refugees out of Afghanistan were great help to our military in not only language barriers, but geography, everything? So, I'm very proud that some of them made it out . . . thank you." — **Rep. Karen Mathiak (R-73)**

"I just think that this is one of the best bills that I've seen and I'm hoping that all of us will help to pass it, because this could be us..." — **Rep. Edna Jackson (D-165)**