



The BIG Partnership Celebrates the Progress of 2022, the Growing Movement Towards a Global Georgia

ATLANTA (April 8, 2022) — The 2022 Georgia Legislative Session was a year of encouraging progress for the [BIG \(Business & Immigration for Georgia\) Partnership](#) and its efforts to build a growing, bipartisan movement committed to ensuring all Georgians, including the one million who are foreign-born, can achieve their potential and contribute to the state to the fullest extent possible.

After the bipartisan House Study Committee on Innovative Ways to Maximize Global Talent released its [final report](#) in December 2021, BIG used the report to help inform its legislative priorities to remove barriers to education, employment and entrepreneurship impacting foreign-born Georgians. Rep. Wes Cantrell (R-Woodstock) sponsored H.B. 932, a bipartisan piece of legislation to help build Georgia's talent pipeline by expanding access to higher education for refugees, Afghan allies and others who supported the U.S. military overseas upon their resettlement in the state.

While H.B. 932 did not come to a vote this year, there was a groundswell of support for the legislation from members of Georgia's veteran, business, faith, refugee and immigrant communities, as well as lawmakers from both sides of the aisle. While dozens of individuals spoke in favor of H.B. 932, not one spoke in opposition. Several [opinion pieces](#) in favor of [H.B. 932](#) were also published in [newspapers](#) and [other outlets](#) across the state. We also saw similar bipartisan support build around H.B. 120, legislation to extend in-state tuition to Georgia DACA recipients.

Each day, more and more Georgians are recognizing the contributions of Georgia's foreign-born communities. Foreign-born Georgians make up over 10% of Georgia's population and 1 in 7 Georgia workers is foreign-born. During a years-long span of labor shortages, the need to better integrate global talent into Georgia's economy is more pressing than ever.

As the tide of public opinion changes in Georgia, we stand committed to helping all Georgians live, work and thrive in the state. Not long ago, refugee and immigrants' rights advocates fought each year at the Capitol to defeat bills which sought to exclude foreign-born communities. To instead witness growing, bipartisan support for measures that seek to better include foreign-born Georgians is progress worth celebrating.

The BIG Partnership is a statewide partnership of Georgia business and civic leaders committed to strengthening Georgia's economy by tapping the potential in the state's foreign-born communities. [Learn more.](#)