

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to you on behalf of hundreds of American families who have been left in a state of uncertainty about the completion of their adoption from the People's Republic of China (PRC) following its announcement that as of August 28, 2024, foreign adoptions from the country will no longer proceed. Likewise, we express our concern for the vulnerable children in the PRC who have been matched with a permanent and loving home but remain separated from their prospective adoptive families. We request that you act in the best interest of these children and families by urging the PRC to fulfill and uphold the commitment the country has made.

The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Convention) concluded in 1993, with several objects to ensure that the best interests and rights of the child are recognized and safeguarded in international law.¹ The United States and the PRC are parties to the Convention and up until the COVID-19 pandemic, have collaborated successfully to work towards permanency for over 82,000 children in the PRC.² Roughly three-hundred children in the PRC, many of whom have medical and emotional needs, have been matched with an adoptive family in the U.S. in accordance with the Convention. Yet, the PRC appears to be going back on its commitment to these families.

The American families that have been matched with their adoptive children are prepared to meet their long-term medical and emotional needs, and to give them the love and nurturing they need. While these families have waited for years for their adoptions to be completed, they have become deeply bonded with their adoptive children. Many of these children know that they

¹ "Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption," opened for signature and adopted May 29, 1993. The Hague Conference on Private International Law. <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/full-text/?cid=69>.

² "Adoption Statistics Dashboard." U.S. Department of State--Bureau of Consular Affairs. Accessed October 18, 2024. https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/adopt_ref/adoption-statistics-esri.html?wcmode=disabled.

have a home, which in many cases have been prepared for their arrival since the families were notified that they were matched and moving forward with the adoption process.

We appreciate the efforts of the U.S. Department of State to seek written clarity on the PRC's end to international adoptions and unite these families. That said, our understanding is that the policy decision was made at top levels within the PRC, necessitating your direct intervention. We believe that the adoptions of children who have already been matched with an adoptive family in accordance with the convention should be allowed to be completed. According to a notice sent on October 25, 2024, by the Department of State to adoption service providers, we understand that the PRC may be continuing to process intercountry adoptions for families from other countries. Our hope is that American families will be provided the same opportunity and that the PRC's participation in the Convention is not going to end with heartbreak for families who won't ever be united with their adoptive child, and with vulnerable children left without the loving home that they knew they had. Your leadership could be life altering for these families.

Thank you for your attention to our correspondence. We hope that our plea for the families and children that have been matched is well received and that you will act to ensure the United States is dedicated to seeing that the commitment made to these families is fulfilled.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee



Erin Houchin
Member of Congress



Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



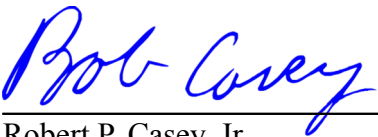
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



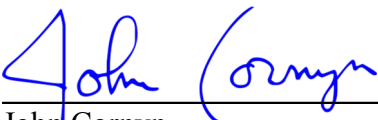
Ted Budd
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



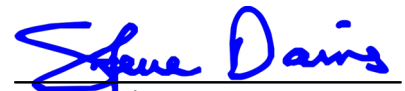
John Cornyn
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



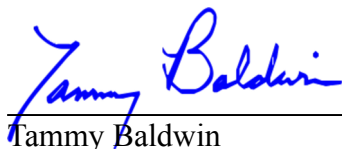
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



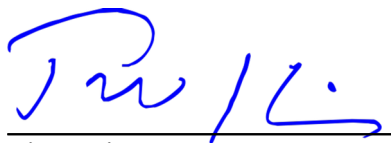
Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



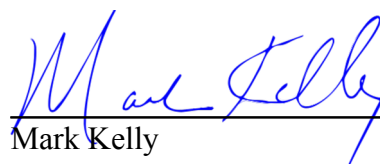
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



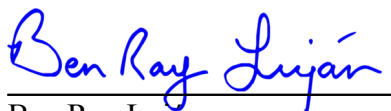
Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



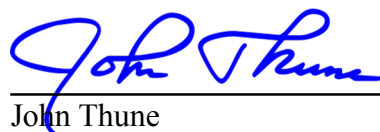
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



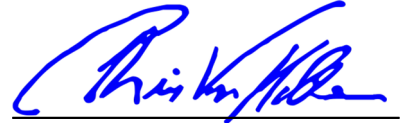
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



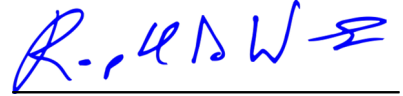
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



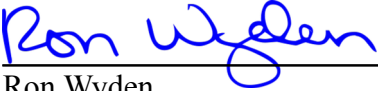
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



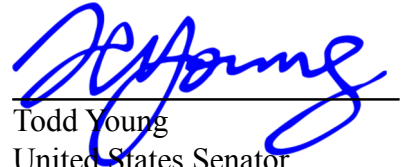
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



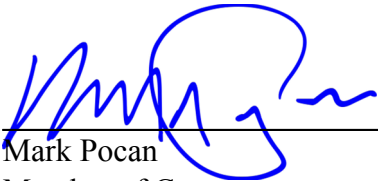
Todd Young
United States Senator



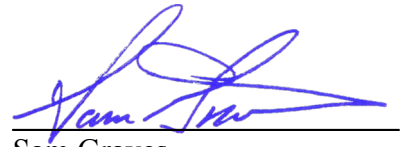
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



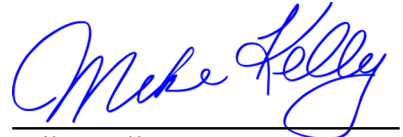
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



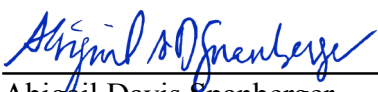
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



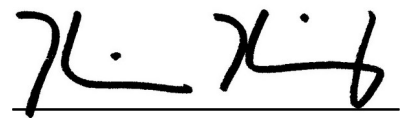
John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



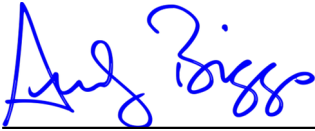
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



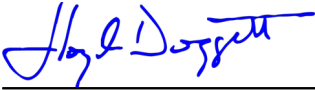
Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



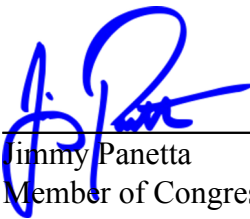
Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
Member of Congress



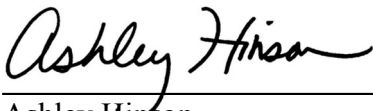
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



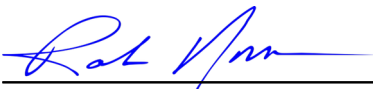
Barry Loudermilk
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Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



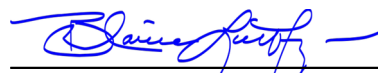
Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress



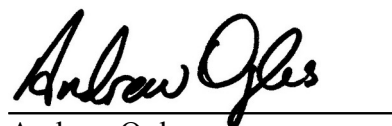
Kay Granger
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Andrew Ogles
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



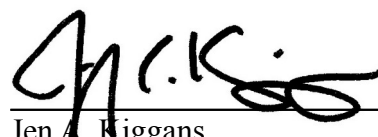
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
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Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



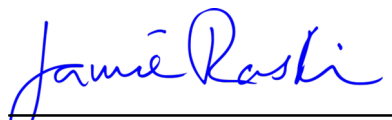
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



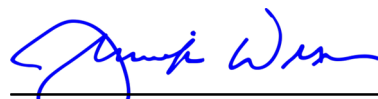
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



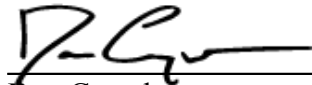
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



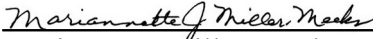
Jennifer Wexton
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Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress



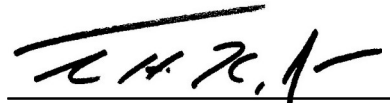
Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



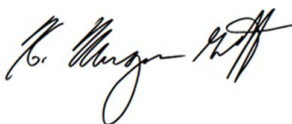
Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



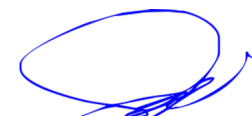
Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



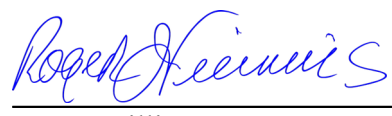
H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Mitt Romney
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



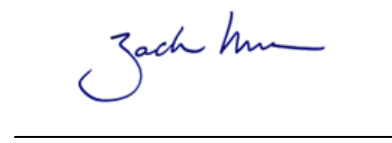
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Zach Nunn
Member of Congress