

March 29, 2007

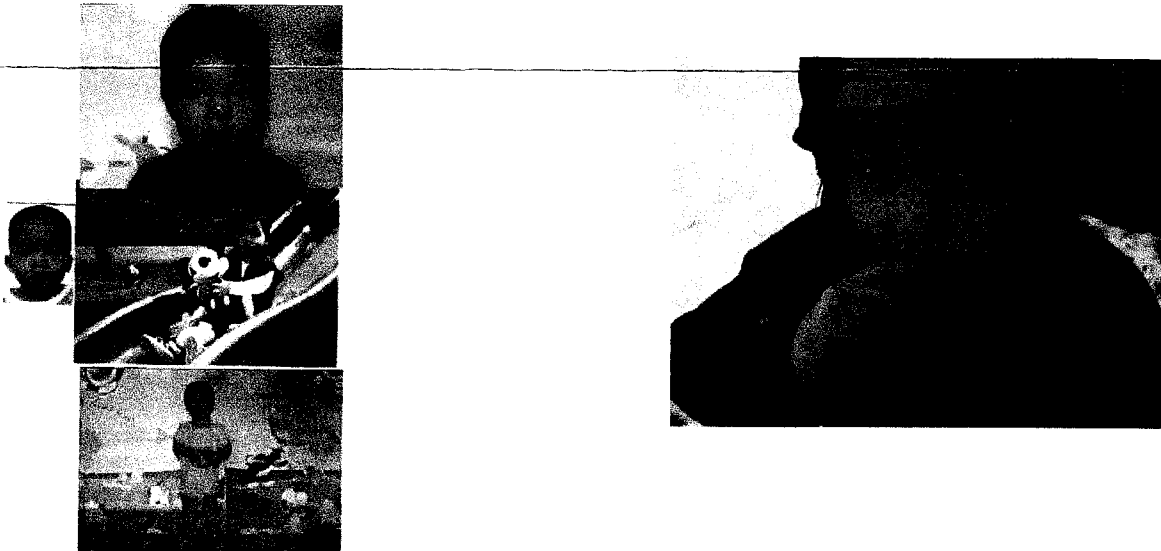
Director, Management Division  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 3rd Floor  
Washington D.C. 20529

Dear Director,

My name is Margaret Kowal and I'm contacting you to urge you not to raise the proposed adoption related fees at the USCIS office. (Reference: docket # USCIS-2006-0044).

The cost of adoption is high already, and most families adopting are not celebrities or the upper echelon of the corporate world. Most people who are choosing to create their families through adoption are middle and upper-middle class, small business owners, first-responders like police officers and fire fighters, and ordinary people who go to work for someone else every day. People take out home-equity loans or other types of loans to help finance their adoptions. Children will be born regardless of people being available to adopt them. Why not make it easier to provide these children with homes, with families who will love them and raise them to be upstanding and proud members of our global society? Why not at least make it a little less financially stressful? One part of the Federal Government has recognized that this is needed and created the Adoption Tax Credit. Please allow this perspective to become a part of your agency's conduct.

I want you to meet my children so that you have a chance to see the faces of two of the children whose lives have been affected by your agency, who was such an integral part of their adoption. Overall our experience with your Yakima Field Office has been good, so thank you for employing people who "get" the value and importance of adoption.



Above left is our son, whom we are in the process right now of adopting from China. He is currently 3 ½ years old. Above right is our daughter, whom we adopted from China in June 2005 at the age of 15 months.

Please do not raise the fees that families like ours pay USCIS to help bring our children home, please consider our children and all of those yet to find their Forever Families.

Sincerely,

*Margaret O. Kowal*  
Margaret O. Kowal