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To: OSComments

Subject: Re: Docket No: USCIS-2006-0044];[FR Doc: E7-01631];[Page 4887-4915];

Immigration: Benefit application fees

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to raising the filing and biometrics fees as proposed in USCIS-2006- 0044. THis measure imposes an additional barrier to international adoption, which is expensive and challenging enough already. International adoption benefits American families who might not have been able to build a family otherwise. It also helps to alleviate the effects of poverty to some extent. THere many arguments that could be made on a policy level, but most importantly, international adoption can literally save the life of a child; to that child, such as my son or my daughter, it is the best thing that could ever have happened.

Both my children were living in orphanages without ever having experienced the love and guidance of a parent. They were school-aged by the time I met them, with infinitesimally slight chances of ever having a family. I was their only chance, and they were extremely lucky.

But it was a great financial hardship, not to mention the mountains of paperwork, to make that adoptive journey. Every dollar that I had to spend on adoption fees, governmental fees, travel expenses, in-country fees and expenses is that much less that I now have to spend in their growing-up years. Taking inflation and the time value of money into account, those costs have eaten deeply into any funds for their education.

Please have compassion for the kind-hearted people who go through such a difficult process, determined to open their hearts and homes to the children of the developing world. Don't raise the fees any higher than they are.

THank you, sincerely,

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