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**Sent:** Saturday, March 31, 2007 10:19 PM

**To:** OSComments

**Subject:** [Docket No: USCIS-2006-0044];[FR Doc: E7-01631];[Page 4887-4915]; Immigration: Benefit application fee schedule adjustment

Dear Sir or Madam,

I want to share my feelings about the proposed fee increases to the immigration processing fees in regards to adoption. My husband and I are currently perusing the adoption of our first child from China, and this fee increase would directly impact our family. I cannot even begin to tell you the negative impact this fee increase would have on the adoption community.

Our experience with our local USCIS office (Washington DC) has not been positive. It appears that there is one woman who is doing all the processing, and the office is one of (if not the) slowest in the country. This woman, while very nice (and very good about returning emails), has taken it upon herself to require additional information from every family that submits an I600-A. At the same time, the wait time for parents adopting from China has increased to the point that all families will have to renew all of their USCIS paperwork (and fingerprints). This all means that our family is going to have to pay nearly \$1000 to update our homestudy and re-file our I600-A (and be refingerprinted). Now the USCIS is proposing to increase these fees. What benefit am I, as an adoptive parent, going to see from this increase? The increase is over 65% - will my paperwork be processed 65% faster? If so, I may be able to support this. But if experience holds true, the money will not be used to process my paperwork faster - in fact, it's unclear where this extra money will go.

It seems like an easier solution would be to increase the length of time that fingerprints and the I171-H is good for. It has always seemed crazy to me that a high level security clearance is good for 5 years; these fingerprints are only good for 1. Perhaps, too, officers such as the one in the Washington DC office should not be asking for so much extra information (why she has been allowed to request detailed financial information from every adoptive family is beyond me) in order to lessen their workloads.

Please do not increase the fees. You will be doing a service to the entire adoption community, and to the children worldwide that we adopt.

Mara Surridge