Katharine S. Legg
Executive Director

March 9, 2007

Michael Chertoff
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services

Dear Mr. Chertoff:

In light of the proposed adjustments of the immigration and naturalization benefit application and petition fee schedule, outlined in 8 CFR Part 103, Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children would like to urge you to keep in mind the circumstances surrounding immigration by means of international adoption. As is, international adoption is a costly process and the proposed fee increases, particularly to forms I-90, I-600/600A, I-824, and I-600/600K, could impose additional financial hardships on families and individuals seeking to adopt children internationally. While we duly acknowledge the staffing and financial needs of U.S.C.I.S. as a fee based organization, as well financial considerations imposed by the rising cost of living in the U.S., we respectfully ask that you keep in mind those families wishing to provide a permanent and loving home to children from around the world. Every child deserves a loving home, and Spence-Chapin continues to strive towards finding homes for infants and young children in need of families. We kindly ask that you keep international adoptive families in mind while making your final decisions on the proposed fee schedule adjustments. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Katharine S. Legg
Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children