

Thursday, March 29, 2007

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON:
Docket Number USCIS-2006-0044**

It is my understanding that if adopted, this rule will increase adoption filing fees by an average of 66% over the current amounts. As an adoptive parent, I cannot express how much this would negatively impact the future of adoptions!

International adoption is sometimes the only option that couples have to complete the family they have always dreamed of, as is the case for my husband and me. We are advocates for the matching of couples who seek hard and long to become parents, and the children who never had a chance to experience the presence of a loving mother and father to guide their lives. Without adoption, millions of children would remain in orphanages and have less chance at a positive life – thus increasing dependence upon the government.

I guess my purpose here is not to convince you that adoption is the right thing to do, but rather to convey the fact that making this process more difficult by raising fees effects more than the pocketbook, it sends a message that the government does not see children as important and worthy of assistance when they most need it.

Sure, there are many other costs in our lives that are increasing and we do our best to meet those demands, but adoption is where people stick their necks out to take into their homes children who otherwise would be under the government's care – and they provide for those children in every way – especially financially. Now, this takes financial responsibility AWAY from the government – we should PROMOTE this activity!

Please re-consider this increase of fees, because it will absolutely change the positive landscape of adoption to one of crushing financial obstacles so that only the extremely wealthy will have this option. The costs of adoption are already very high, and these increases will only cause more problems in our society and those of other countries around the world!

Signed,



Mrs. Barbara Osness