

I would like to comment on the proposed USCIS fee increases for petitions related to international adoption. These include the I-600/600A (Petition to Classify and Orphan as an Immediate Relative), N-565 (Application for Replacement of Certificate of Citizenship), N-600 (Application for Certificate of Citizenship), Biometric Services (fingerprinting), and the I-824 (Request for Action on Approved Petition).

As I'm sure you're aware, international adoption has become a very expensive undertaking. It is not unusual for a family to spend anywhere between \$20,000 and \$40,000 (depending on the country of origin) to bring a single child home. As costs continue to rise, many families who would like to adopt an orphaned child are finding that they simply cannot afford to do so. The USCIS fee increases would only add to the financial burden and the losers would ultimately be orphaned children. The current USCIS fees are not insignificant and some of the proposed increases are quite substantial. As it stands, the expiration date on the I-600/600A form is such that many families are unable to complete the adoption process in the allotted time frame and must resubmit all of the paperwork a second time in order to bring their child home. This means that families must pay for fingerprinting and the submission of the I-600/600A a second time! I am currently in the process of adopting a child from China and am facing this situation right now. I might also add that customer service at the USCIS has been less than stellar! It can take 2 - 3 months to receive an I-171H and trying to get information on the status of your application is very difficult.

As a nation, we should be doing all that we can to support needy children. We should be doing everything we can to support and encourage families who are trying to adopt children rather than increasing the financial burden. I ask you to reconsider the USCIS fee increases.

Sincerely,

Joy Kairies