

From: Bob & Barbara Campbell [mailto:greyhounddogs@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 9:45 PM
To: OSComments
Subject: N-600 Fee Increases

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to inform you about my serious concern and dismay over the increase in the N-600 (COC) fee to take place this year. While I certainly understand that any paperwork processed by USCIS or any federal agency requires man hours and additional expenses -- this increase is exorbitant and will negatively many American families in the process or -- and hoping to -- adopt internationally.

International adoption costs alot of money -- and the waiting and the anguish experienced by these parents is immeasurable. People adopt for a variety of reasons -- but, we are fortunate that there are Americans who are willing to provide love and freedom for orphan children. Many people insist that all Americans should adopt domestically -- but, trust me, few are aware of the prejudices Americans face when trying to do so! While there are thousands of children here in foster care -- state social service organizations make it very difficult for people to adopt -- even if they try to begin that process. (My husband and I were told by our state Social Worker that it would be very hard to refer a 4-7 year-old boy to our family since our only child -- a son, 7 years old -- did very well in school and would be a 'hard act to follow'! We were open to race and minor medical needs -- just wanted a 4-7 year-old boy! Four years after our homestudy was complete and our son was 11 years old, we were offered twin, infant girls! We had little, if any, 'say' in that adoption process, declined that referral and never heard from Social Services again. Twenty years later, our son and his wife dealt with infertility issues and applied to adopt from our state -- a child between 0 - 24 months, either gender. They were told that they had Caucasian children which would go to Caucasian families, Black children which would be placed in Black families, Hispanic children which would be placed with Hispanic families, and mixed-race children -- Caucasian/Black and Caucasian/Hispanic and Black/Hispanic which would be placed with the minority race first. Our son/daughter-in-law being a Caucasian/East Indian couple -- were told they would wait years for a referral as "that minority" was seldom seen here. Needless to say, they adopted a little boy from India in 2003 -- after only 12 months from

application -- but after spending more than \$20,000. Sadly, the largest expenses not directly for the care/welfare of the child prior to adoption were to file forms with USCIS. Had we not been able to help with those expenses, our precious grandson would not be here. And, now -- those fees are going up!

I certainly understand why people coming to this country and filing for citizenship need to pay fees for processed paperwork. However, when you raise the fees for a Certificate of Citizenship almost 100% -- you are penalizing American citizens for trying to become parents -- in whatever way they choose -- or can! There certainly could be a different fee for "adopted infants of American citizens" if someone would seriously consider these extra "hoops" required by parents who choose to adopt rather than leave orphan children homeless. Not all adoptive parents 'have money' -- most have loans, extra jobs -- and a fear that they may never have children in their home.

PLEASE reconsider this fee increase! I was told by one USCIS office that the COC is "not" required -- a passport will do! But, try to go to Social Security and get a card for that child in his/her American, adopted name -- and they tell you "Can't do it with just a Passport! You need the COC!" Of course, every Social Security office seems to have its own 'rules' -- please make USCIS the federal office that HELPS Americans and their families! Please do not increase the COC fee!

Barbara Campbell