

From: Eva & Mark [mailto:financial_freedom_builders@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 12:52 AM

To: OSComments

Subject: Docket # USCIS-2006-0044 / U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department

Director, Management Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department

RE: Docket # USCIS-2006-0044

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing you today to ask you to reconsider the proposed increase in filing fees for documents and services of your department needed for international adoptions. My husband and I are in the final stages of an international adoption for which we had to do all the paper work twice, because the first agency we had acting on our behalf turned out to be fraudulent and disappeared with our money.

Because we had committed our hearts to our adoptive orphan daughter and promised her to be her parents we could not and would not just drop the whole thing. We have nine children of our own who are almost all grown up now, so there was no real need for us to adopt another child, especially as we are happy to be grandparents of six already.

However, there are millions of older children who like our daughter have almost no hope to be adopted before they have to leave their orphanages as young adults to face a world for which they are not prepared. Their education is usually sadly lacking, and their already compromised emotional and physical well being is seriously threatened by what they encounter in their various countries.

Since their own countries are overwhelmed by the situation the majority of all adoptive families are US-Citizens.

I think it is a shame that one of our country's government agencies wants to profit at all from the goodwill of its own citizens who are trying to ease the burdens of these children around the globe. Have we forgotten, that poverty and insufficient education are the main causes that lead millions of young people in many countries to follow radical leaders, who will abuse them for their own political purposes? Have we forgotten that the hopelessness caused by poverty and insufficient education also leads other millions of young people to become drug dealers, pimps, prostitutes, and even murderers who aggravate further the circumstances in their own countries, which in many ways affects the global economy and eventually

the USA?

We realize that adopting just one child from a former Eastern Block country will not change the whole world, but we know many families who would also adopt children from other countries if the red tape and cost of international adoptions were not so extremely overwhelming for most middle class families. To raise an additional child is usually not a problem for such families, but the process they have to submit to for international adoption is increasingly becoming one.

By increasing the already outrageously high fees for the necessary documentation needed from your department you would be compounding the difficulties for adoptive families and prevent many more needy children from the blessing of being welcomed into a loving family!

In my humble opinion it would be best to drop these fees altogether or at least significantly decrease them, so as to encourage more families to adopt the lost children of this world, because the price we will all pay later to deal with them as adults will be infinitely higher.

Sincerely, Eva & Mark Davies

PS: Please find below the comment of one of our friends about the same topic:

>From: emma urban <emmaurban@yahoo.it>
>Subject: Increase in Filing Fees
>Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2007 06:54:13 +0200 (CEST)
>
>I have been living for more than 7 years in
>Kazakhstan, and I met several families that came to
>adopt children varying from 18 months old babies to
>14 years old. I have seen the sacrifices and hardship
>these families went through, only to provide a good
>home to those children. Many didn't adopt to satisfy
>a
>need to fill an empty nest (in fact the majority of
>them had large families of their own), but to give
>a chance and a future to 'unloved children'.
>
>I have also seen the corrupt system in the former
>Soviet Union that uses the good faith and willingness
>of those good Americans that come to their countries
>to adopt (from unscrupulous adoption agencies to high
>ranking officials in the courts), to get money for
>their
>own personal gain.

>I would expect a country like the United States will
>not make it more difficult for those families, but

>rather ease their burden.

>If there is a problem with too much immigration (the
>only reason I can think of for having even considered
>raising the fees, as to discourage families from
>adopting internationally), it should be addressed for
>the older immigrants, not children. Those adopted
>children, even if originally born outside the States,
>become even more American than many who were born
here.

>They have an appreciation for things they could not
>dream of in their own countries, and a patriotism for
>their adopted country that surpasses the one of those
>who take the opportunities America offers, for
granted.

>

>The good people in the former Soviet countries that
>come in contact with the adopting American families,
>gain respect and love for a country whose
>representatives (the adoptive parents) show such
>unselfishness and so much love, to save the children
>that their own countrymen cannot take care of.

>

>In a time when the international politics of the
>United States is so much criticized by other
countries

>with accusations of interfering for monetary gain,
>the goodwill and respect those parents spread abroad
>is more effective and lasting with the common people,

>than any political talk or negotiations could
>accomplish. In my view, making international adoption

>harder, is a shortsighted step that not only will
>damage the prospective adoptive families and the
>adopted children, but the United States itself.

>

>Sincerely,
>Emma Urban

The fish are biting.

Get more visitors on your site using Yahoo! Search Marketing.

http://searchmarketing.yahoo.com/arp/sponsoredsearch_v2.php