

March 27th, 2007
18 Warwick Road
Newton, MA 02465

Director, Management Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 3rd Floor
Washington D.C. (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services),

20529

Dear Director:

I am writing to request that proposed increases to the adoption related USCIS fees be rejected. As adoptive parents, my spouse and I have experienced the magic parenting a child from Guatemala and plan to continue to build our family in this way. We have paid the current USCIS fees and find them to already be exorbitant. We know of many couples that have ruled out the option of International adoption due to the high cost. My husband and I are so delighted with our son and feel so blessed to have him in our lives. He is absolutely the light of our days. I find it sad that our affluent country cannot do more to encourage international adoption and assist in bringing such joy to other families in the United States who may otherwise never know the joys of parenthood.

Please note that aside from USCIS fees, we have also paid hundreds of dollars to our State to have documents certified for adoptions, never mind thousands of dollars to support our infants abroad while waiting for our attorneys to clear international hurdles before bringing our children home. I realize other fees are out of the control of your agency, but nonetheless, I ask you to take the big picture into consideration.

My spouse is also naturalized, so the amount of money paid to USCIS has been huge. We are good upstanding citizens and hard workers who contribute daily to our community through our occupations as health care workers and through our dedication to provide a safe and pleasant environment for our family. We intend to raise our children as good hard-working Americans with pride for their country and respect for their compatriots.

My spouse and I have been fingerprinted twice in 2 years for 2 separate adoptions. May I ask, have our fingerprints changed in 18 months? Could your agency save money by running our existing fingerprints?

When acquaintances of ours comment on the prohibitive cost of international adoption, I am sure to clarify to them that it is the price-tag the US federal and State agencies puts on this process that is truly unacceptable.

Please reject fee increases proposed by docket number USCIS-2006-0044. The cost of adoption is high enough.

Respectfully,



Ellen and Sean Darcy