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Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 10:47 PM
To: OSComments
Subject: [Docket No: USCIS-2006-0044];[FR Doc: E7-01631];[Page 4887-4915]; Immigration: Benefit application fee schedule adjustment
Importance: High

This is in reference to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and docket number (USCIS-2006- 0044):

Regarding the fee increases associated with international adoption as follows:

- *N-600 fee will go from \$255 to \$420
- *I-600A Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative fee will go from \$545 to \$670
- *N-565 Application for Replacement of Certificate of Citizenship (used for name changes) will go from \$220 to \$380
- *Biometric Services (fingerprints) will go from \$70 per person to \$80 per person

My wife and I want to make our voices heard in order to keep the cost of international adoption from increasing unnecessarily. To sum it up, both my wife and I worked in the mortgage industry for many years. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were chartered by the Federal Government to help Americans realize the “American Dream” of being able to buy a home in U.S.A.- hence came various efforts known as “affordable housing” initiatives in the mortgage industry and the like.

Similarly another “American Dream” is to have a family. Many Americans, including my wife and I, have sought this other very important “American Dream” through international adoption. If the U.S. Government (U.S.C.I.S., etc.) keeps raising the costs to American families to adopt- these rising costs will close these doors for many Americans desiring the dream of having children and a family. Please help keep the American dream of having a family alive and affordable for all Americans and not only prevent the adoption costs noted in docket number USCIS-2006-044 from going up- but please drive these costs down- just like the mortgage industry has tried to do by taking steps to make housing affordable for all Americans in our great country!

Here is an idea related to this topic: many of us adopting internationally do not understand why some of these forms “expire” and we are forced to pay for them all over again as though we never completed them in the first place. Often times for reasons that are out of our control internationally, the adoption processes get delayed overseas. The delays- again not because of anything Americans are doing- cause certain forms (I-600A) and Biometric Services (fingerprints) to expire and we are then forced to do them all over again at the same or now higher costs (if the proposed rate increases go through). “Update fees”- fees at much lower costs than what was originally paid for the I-600A or Biometric Services- would seem more reasonable... for instance- my fingerprints are not going to change so why do I have to pay for them again at the same cost? Better yet- why not offer extensions on the I-600A and Biometric Services at no additional cost to Americans trying to adopt when a third party (such as an Adoption Agency) can verify for the Government (USCIS) that delays in the adoption process are not related to the American family trying to adopt? Etc.

Thank you,

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