

From: Sharp, Lorin [mailto:lorins@slac.stanford.edu]

Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 12:51 AM

To: OSComments

Subject: [DHS Docket No: USCIS-2006-0044-0001];[FR Doc: E7-01631];[Page 4887-4915];
Immigration: Benefit application fee schedule adjustment-FROM ADOPTIVE PARENTS L. & K.
SHARP

Re: Document #USCIS-2006-0044-0001

Dear Director: We, as adoptive parents to an internationally adopted child, are particularly concerned about this Adjustment of the Immigration Benefit Application/ Petition and Biometric Fee Schedule. We oppose the increase – especially for adoption applications, as anyone who has started adoption at this point in time, as has each adoption applicant in the past 6 months, will surely have to refile after 18 months. This is because foreign adoptions from China are taking well over 15-16 months to complete. This makes these fee increases especially burdensome to those of us already paying a tremendous amount in fees to various agencies throughout our adoption process. The fees had already gone up in 2006 to begin with.

Unless the expiration date of the I-600/1-600A, fingerprinting & I171H is extended from 18 to at least 24 months—and thereby allowing enough time for the adoption to be completed—the fee increases should be allayed so adoptive parents-to-be are not paying twice for the same services and taking up administrative time that could otherwise be utilized on other applications. This is a pointless and wasteful use of time for everyone involved. We ask that you reconsider this double jeopardy that we adopting families are placed under. It is one thing to raise costs periodically to keep up with inflation and maintain efficiency, it is quite another to not only go above our costs of living, but to hit us twice when these families and agencies work so hard in the first place to be able to provide for their future children.

We appreciate the efforts of USCIS to provide the valuable service it does. Please consider a fair compromise for U.S. adoptive parents so we can continue to be encouraging to others that international adoption is a viable and valued way for anyone to build a family.

Sincerely,

Lorin & Ken Sharp