

From: Karen.Volker [mailto:Karen.Volker@target.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2007 3:32 PM
To: OSComments
Subject: USCIS-2006-0044

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed increase in adoption-related fees currently being considered:

Form
Petition Type
Current
Fee
Proposed
Fee

I-600/600A
Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative
\$ 545
\$ 670

N-565
Application for Replacement of Certificate of Citizenship (used for
name changes)
\$ 220
\$ 380

N-600
Application for Certificate of Citizenship
\$ 255
\$ 460

Biometric Services (fingerprints)
\$ 70
\$ 80

As someone who has twice completed foreign-child adoptions, I can tell you that the hurdles are significant. The combined requirements of both the U.S. and foreign governments result in months of paperwork and significant fees, several of which have little benefit. For example, while fingerprints never change, most families have to do them twice (and pay for them twice), because they "expire". Background checks occur at several levels because the United States and foreign government requirements are slightly different.

The combined fees are already insurmountable for many families and it would be a tremendous dis-service to the public to make a difficult process even more difficult. If costs are outpacing revenue I encourage you to do what the private sector does – streamline processes and utilize technology to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

Thank you for your consideration,
Karen Volker