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Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2007 2:03 PM
To: OSComments
Subject: USCIS-2006- 0044

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in regards to the proposed fee increases. I'm sure I'm among the thousands who will be affected by these increases and I'm also sure they would all agree that the new charges, simply put, are outrageous.

Adoptions, especially international adoptions are extremely expensive for most of us in working classes. While we share the same sentiments, the desire to change a child's life and in many ways fulfill our own desires of having a family, we also have unique circumstances that have led us to adopt.

In our case, we have been trying to have children for over 15 years. We've exhausted most of our savings with expensive medical treatments and procedures that our medical insurance carriers would not cover. And so we turned to adoption. Our first attempt resulted in utter horror. It was a domestic adoption that ended one week prior to the delivery with a still-born death. We were devastated and heartbroken. We also lost everything we had invested in the adoption.

A few months later, we decided to try again with a new agency. This time we turned to China for an international adoption. It has now been over 16 months since we began this journey and our expected waiting time for a referral is still over 14 months away.

Seemingly every month the referrals are taking longer and we are now facing the reality of having to have our documentation redone. The initial costs of the documents was a heavy burden for us and now we're facing increases on top of that as well.

Adopting a child should not be this difficult. For most of us, the reason we're adopting is because it is our last hope of achieving a family. We've exhasusted all other means and resources and now must deal with more financial hardships. Please reconsider your proposal in raising the fees. If not for the families, then for the hundreds of thousands of children who need one.

Thank You,
Tom Vasquez