

American law regarding helping the world's children needs to change so that it's built on the simple human truth that children need families.

Internationally, millions and millions of children are stuck and forgotten, living in institutions or worse. And the number grows every day. While U.S. assistance may help keep many of these children alive, it does not meet their basic need to be raised in a family. To do better, we need better law. We need to pass the **Children in Families First Act of 2013 (CHIFF)**.



- CHIFF realigns our foreign assistance without increasing spending, to prioritize the American value of family.
- Today's science shows that children cannot be terribly damaged, often irreparably, by living in institutions or without any parental care.
- U.S. foreign assistance does many good things – immunizations, maternal and child health, education, nutrition – but our government functions in a way that actually gets in the way of preserving or creating families.
- CHIFF makes our government smarter (not bigger) by changing how we do things and redirecting some resources that are currently not well used.

The best protection for a child is a family. We protect children by preserving families, reunifying families or creating families through adoption. And yet, no one in our foreign affairs agencies focuses on children in families. CHIFF fixes this.

- The growing crisis of children living without families is the most critical human rights problem of our time. Every child has a human right to a family.
- There is no office for families or children in any foreign affairs agency.
- The U.S. Government has effectively relinquished its policy role on international child welfare to UNICEF.
- We need to retake control of U.S. foreign policy on this critical issue and lead the way in shifting the world's focus on to the importance of family for all children.



We need to stop treating international adoption as an immigration enforcement issue. International adoption is protection for children who need it. It protects them by giving them permanent, safe, nurturing families of their own. CHIFF recognizes this and makes the needed changes.



- The only State Department office with the word “children” in its name doesn’t cover international child welfare, only international adoption and abduction, and those very narrowly.
- For nine straight years, international adoptions to the U.S. have plummeted, by over 62%. U.S. adoptions have declined far faster than adoption to other countries.
- CHIFF fixes the functional problems without our government bureaucracy with a smarter, not bigger, approach that will allow international adoptions to become a strong and important part of how we protect children.
- CHIFF strengthens systems and procedures to protect against abuses of children living without families even as it facilitates getting more children into permanent, loving families.