

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 1, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

As members of the United States Congress, we represent hundreds of families who entered into adoptions of Guatemalan children in good faith and with the sole intent of providing a permanent, loving home to a child in need. Due to recent changes in the adoption laws in Guatemala, these adoptions have stagnated for over 18 months, forcing the children involved to remain in institutions or temporary care. Furthermore, many of these cases have been subjected to requests for new information and additional investigation.

We applaud Guatemala's decision to require that all adoptions meet Hague standards and we share Guatemala's goal to see that all children and their birth parents are protected from exploitation. We also appreciate the State Department's efforts to assist the government of Guatemala in its transition to the Hague and promote a transparent and efficient adoption process.

However, we are concerned that extended and unexplained delays in the processing of these pending adoptions and the subsequent extension of the time these children are spending outside the care of a permanent family may have long-term physical and emotional consequences. In several cases, families have been left without the information they need and deserve to protect their rights under the law.

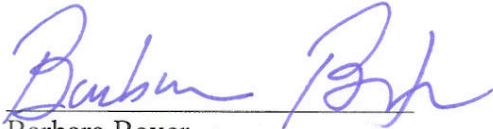
We believe it is in the best interest of these children for the U.S. government to play an active role in ensuring that their cases are completed in a fair and timely manner. As such, we respectfully request that you take the following steps.

- Direct the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs to meet personally with Guatemalan officials with the purpose of achieving consensus on a standard process for remaining U.S. cases.
- Direct a senior member of Consular Affairs to engage in regular conference calls and emails with families who have pending adoptions in Guatemala to update them on Embassy efforts to resolve these cases.

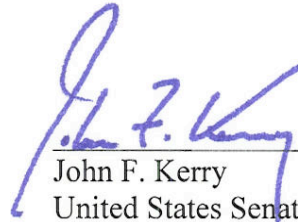
We sincerely hope that you will work to ensure that intercountry adoption reform in Guatemala is being carried out in a way that protects the interests of children, birth parents, and adoptive parents alike. We stand ready to assist you in achieving this goal.

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,




Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



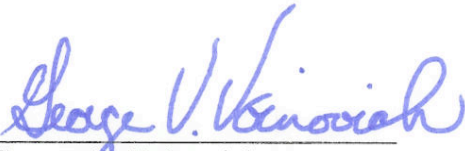
John F. Kerry  
United States Senator



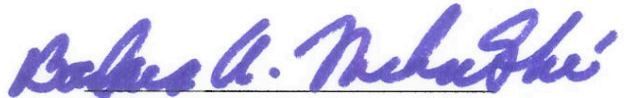
Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senator



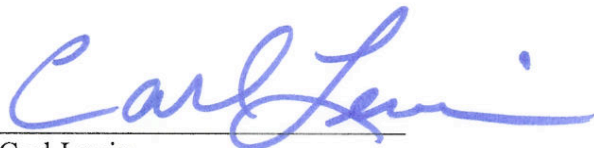
Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator



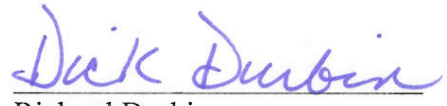
George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator



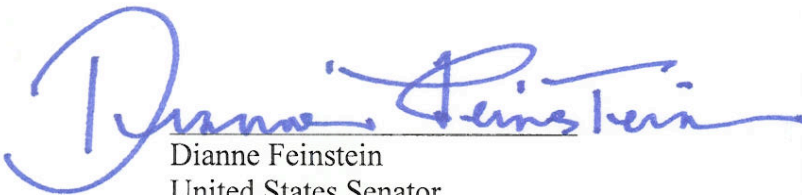
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



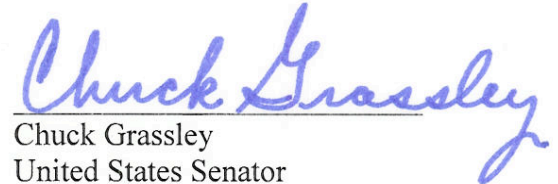
Carl Levin  
United States Senator



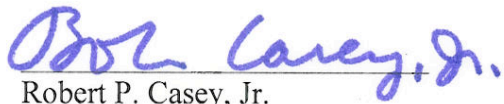
Richard Durbin  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



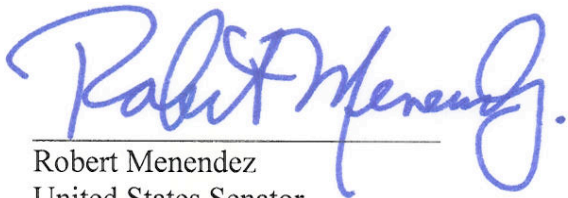
Sam Brownback  
United States Senator



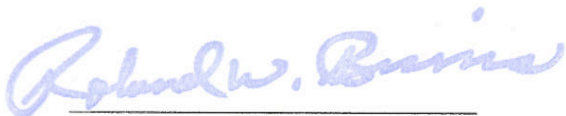
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator




Roland W. Burris  
United States Senator



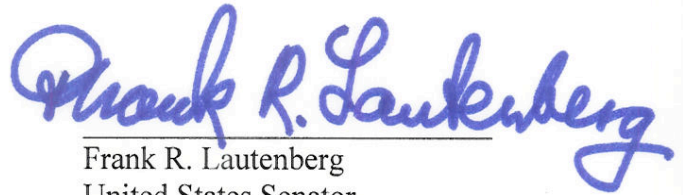
Tom Harkin  
United States Senator



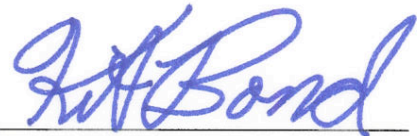
Tim Johnson  
United States Senator



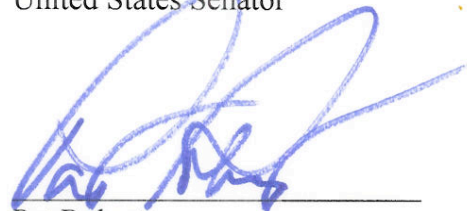
John Thune  
United States Senator



Frank R. Lautenberg  
United States Senator



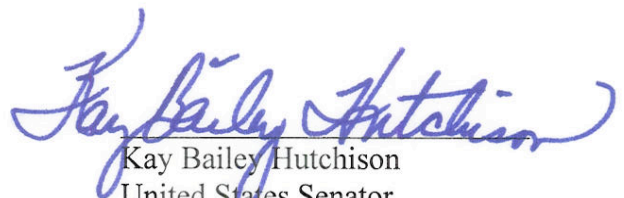
Christopher S. Bond  
United States Senator



Pat Roberts  
United States Senator

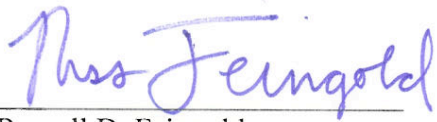


Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

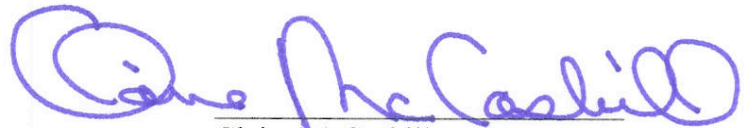


Kay Bailey Hutchison  
United States Senator





Russell D. Feingold  
United States Senator



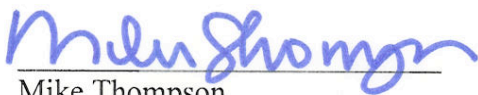
Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



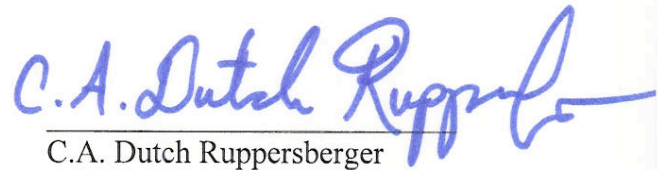
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



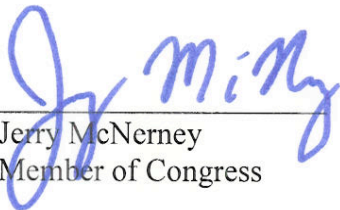
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress



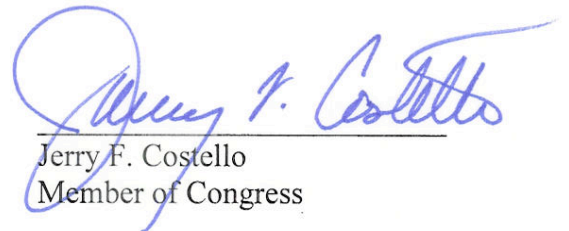
Michele Bachmann  
Member of Congress



Ben Chandler  
Member of Congress



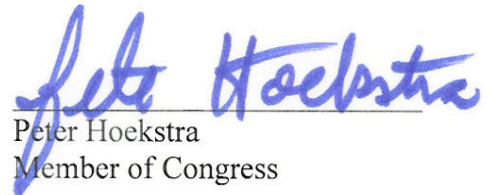
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Jerry F. Costello  
Member of Congress



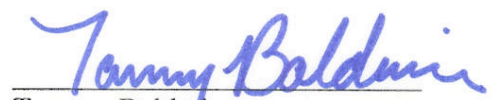
Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress



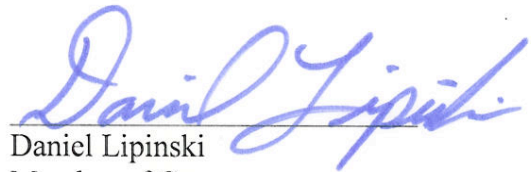
Peter Hoekstra  
Member of Congress



Geoff Davis  
Member of Congress



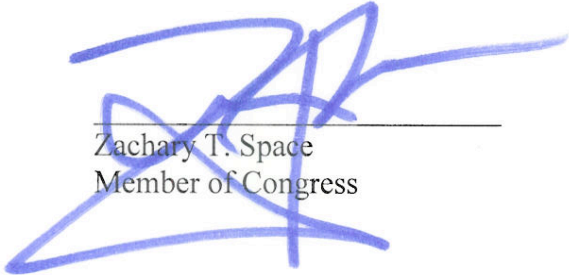
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress



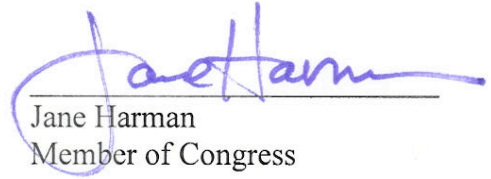
Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress



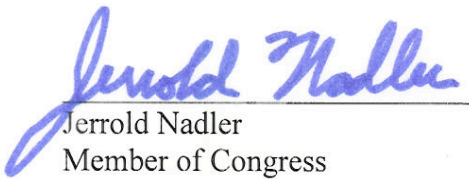
Jerry Moran  
Member of Congress



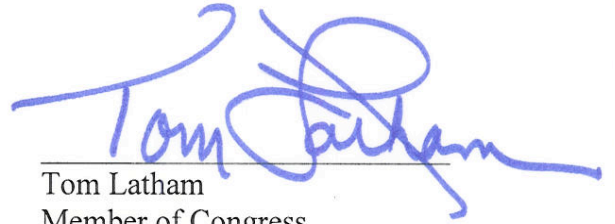
Zachary T. Space  
Member of Congress



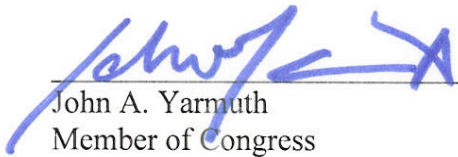
Jane Harman  
Member of Congress



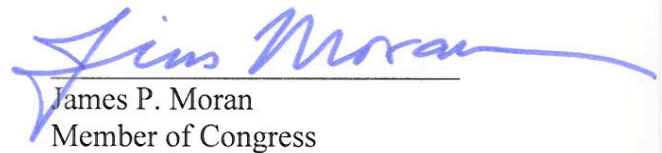
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Tom Latham  
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



James P. Moran  
Member of Congress



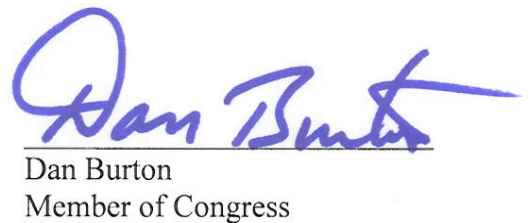
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



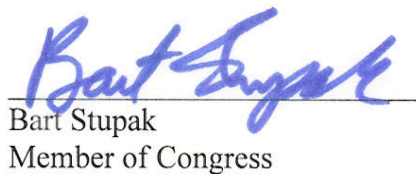
Daniel E. Lungren  
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress



Dan Burton  
Member of Congress



Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress



Scott Murphy  
Member of Congress