

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 21, 2010

Procurador Guillermo Antonio Porras Ovalle
Procuraduria General de la Nacion
15 avenida 9-69, zona 13
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Dear Procurador Porras Ovalle:

As members of the United States Congress, we represent hundreds of American families who entered into adoptions of Guatemalan children prior to the passage of Guatemala's adoption reform legislation in December 2007. As you know, a provision of this law allowed for families whose adoptions were in process as of December 2007 to continue processing their cases under the existing law. Since that time, a significant number of families have not only waited several years to complete these "grandfathered" adoptions but also are without clear guidance from appropriate government agencies on what steps are still required to resolve their cases. We write today to respectfully ask that you institute a transparent and predictable process for these pending American adoptions that will allow them to be resolved both fairly and expeditiously.

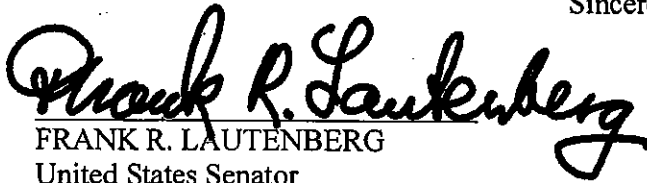
We applaud the Guatemalan government's efforts to reform the intercountry adoption system and we share your goal of ensuring that all children in Guatemala and their birth parents are protected from exploitation. We also recognize and appreciate that your government is working to review all aspects of every pending case in light of allegations of irregularities. In addition, we understand that certain cases are currently being decided by the Guatemalan judicial system and we fully respect the independence of your courts.

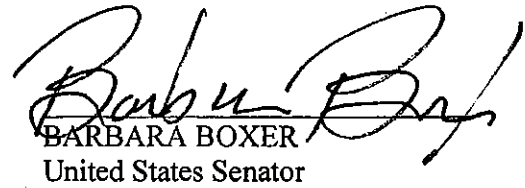
However, we remain concerned that approximately 400 American adoptions initiated under the old adoption laws have been subjected to inexplicable delays, new legal and procedural requirements, multiple field investigations and birth parent interviews. The lack of a transparent and predictable process has forced many children to remain in orphanages in Guatemala outside the care of a permanent family, which we fear could result in long-term physical, emotional, and psychological harm. Additionally, we are sure you can appreciate the substantial financial and emotional burden these inexplicable delays have had on the adoptive parents, many of whom have been providing assistance for foster care and support services in Guatemala.

We hope you agree that establishing a transparent and predictable process for all pending adoption cases is necessary to protect Guatemalan children, their birth parents, and adopting families. We believe it is possible to establish a process that is both thorough and fair and encourage you to take immediate steps toward the establishment of such a process.

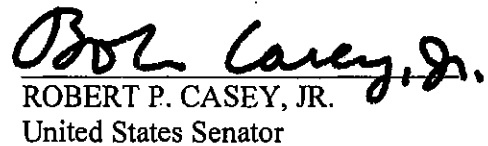
Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
United States Senator

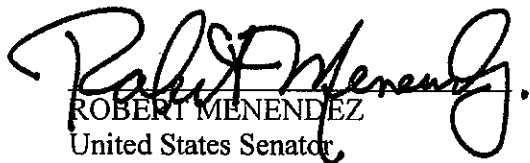

BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator

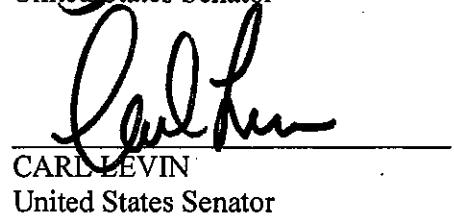

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
United States Senator

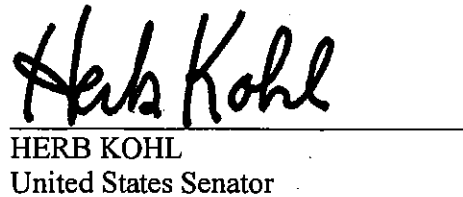

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
United States Senator


ARLEN SPECTER
United States Senator


MARY L. LANDRIEU
United States Senator


ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator

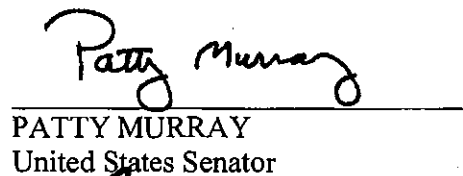

CARL LEVIN
United States Senator

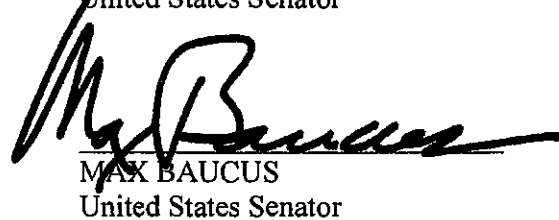

HERB KOHL
United States Senator

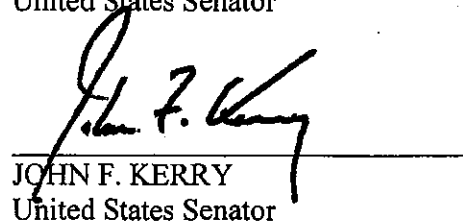

SAM BROWNBACK
United States Senator

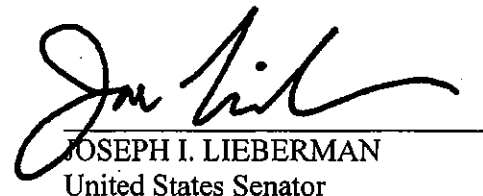

DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator


BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
United States Senator


PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator


MAX BAUCUS
United States Senator


JOHN F. KERRY
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JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown

SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator

Al Franken

AL FRANKEN
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Rich Durbin

RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator

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BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
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Kirsten E. Gillibrand

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
United States Senator

Chuck Grassley

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United State Senator

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GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
United States Senator

Blanche L. Lincoln

BLANCHE L. LINCOLN
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill

CLAIRE McCASKILL
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator

Bill Nelson

BILL NELSON
United States Senator

Jeff Bond

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
United State Senator

Pat Roberts

PAT ROBERTS
United States Senator

Kay Bailey Hutchison

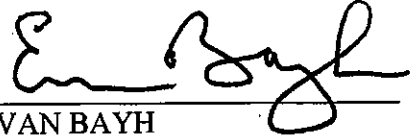
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell

MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator



JIM WEBB
United States Senator



EVAN BAYH
United States Senator



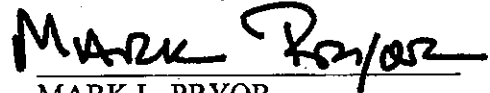
CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



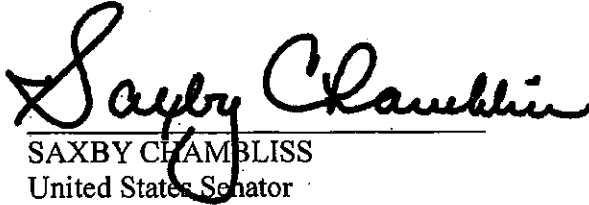
JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator



JON TESTER
United States Senator



MARK L. PRYOR
United States Senator



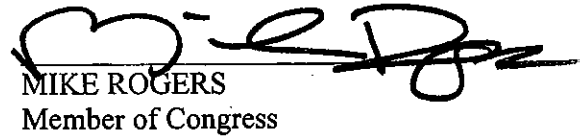
SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator



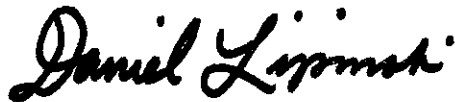
TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



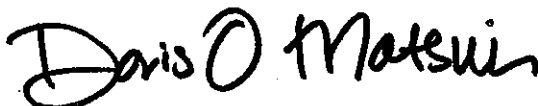
MIKE ROGERS
Member of Congress



DANIEL LIPINSKI
Member of Congress



TIM RYAN
Member of Congress



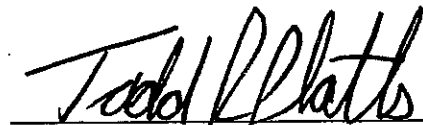
DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress



SCOTT MURPHY
Member of Congress



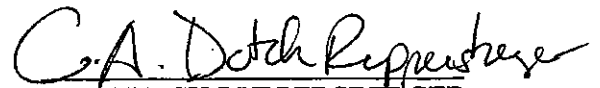
FERROL NADLER
Member of Congress



TODD RUSSELL PLATTS
Member of Congress



CHRIS SMITH
Member of Congress



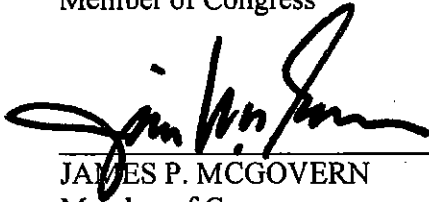
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress



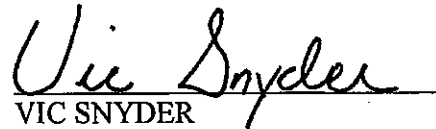
JERRY MORAN
Member of Congress



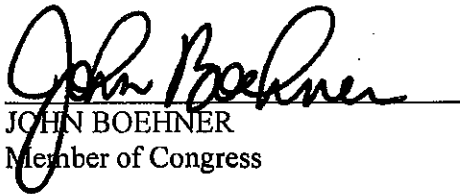
BEN CHANDLER
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



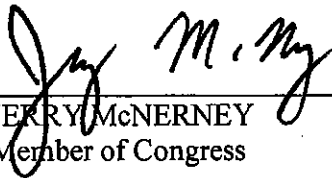
VIC SNYDER
Member of Congress



JOHN BOEHNER
Member of Congress



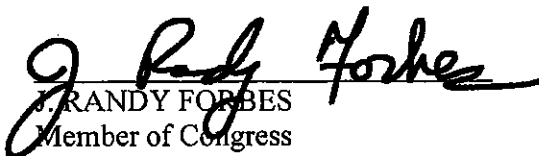
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



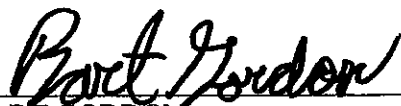
W. TODD AKIN
Member of Congress



RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress



PETER HOEKSTRA
Member of Congress



BART GORDON
Member of Congress




JOHN SARBANES
Member of Congress



ROY BLUNT
Member of Congress



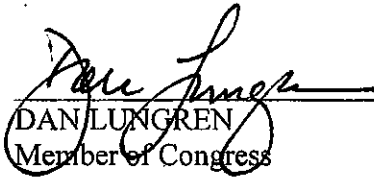
HOWARD P. MCKEON
Member of Congress



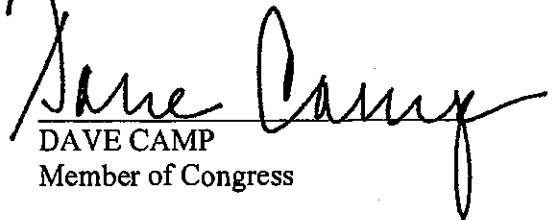
FRANK M. KRATOVIL, JR.
Member of Congress



ZACHARY SPACE
Member of Congress



DAN LUNGREN
Member of Congress



DAVE CAMP
Member of Congress



BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



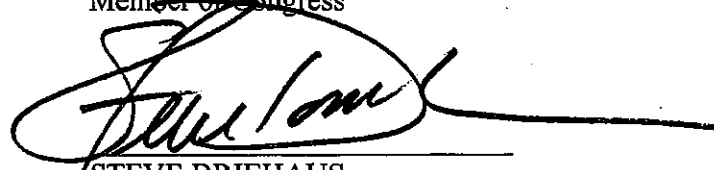
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress



DENNY REHBERG
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STEVE DRIEHAUS
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TOM LATHAM
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LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress