

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 22, 2010

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

The Honorable Secretary Janet Napolitano  
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Clinton and Secretary Napolitano:

We would first like to commend both of you for your role in a well-coordinated U.S. Agency for International Development led but government-wide response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti. We also want to thank you for all of your efforts to rescue victims, reunite families and provide assistance to those who are still searching for loved ones.

We are writing to you regarding pending adoption cases of Haitian children and how your agencies can work with the Haitian Government to further help these children. Specifically, we write to ask that you please continue to expedite the search and rescue of orphans in Haiti so that prospective parents can proceed as quickly as possible to bring their children home. In addition, we write to ask that the Departments work with international and non-governmental organizations to establish, to the extent possible given the multitude of pressing humanitarian needs, an adoptions center in Haiti that can provide safety, security, food, water, medical attention, immigration information, and other necessities to the children, their caretakers and their parents.

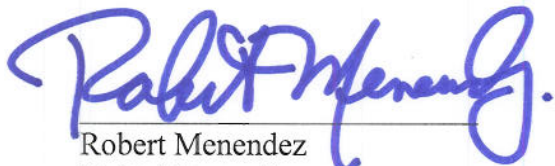
As you know, last Tuesday's earthquake left orphanages without food and water, and with little access to medical care. We are all aware of constituents who are in the process of adopting children from Haiti and who are now understandably concerned for the children's well being. As the supply of basic services continues to be a grave concern, many prospective parents still do not even know the whereabouts of their adopted children. We are very appreciative of your continued efforts to rescue these orphans and urge you to expedite these efforts.

We are also very relieved by the Administration's announcement that Haitian adoptive children may be paroled into the United States. However, we are concerned that in some situations, families and children may not have easy access to all of the required documentation that would demonstrate their eligibility for parole and in these cases, we urge you to work with their parents and their caretakers to secure secondary evidence regarding the child's pending adoption. As you

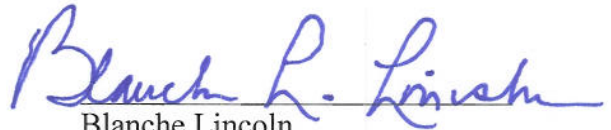
know, in some cases, documentation in Haiti has been destroyed and in other cases, the child's application was not yet completely processed. In order to bring these children into the United States as quickly as possible, we ask that both agencies work with families to locate secondary evidence and accommodate situations where a background check must be completed now because the appropriate checks were not completed prior to the earthquake.

Again, thank you for your leadership during this difficult time and I look forward to your responses.

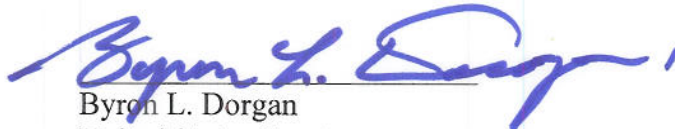
Sincerely,



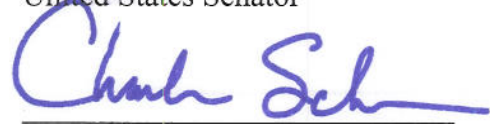
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Blanche Lincoln  
United States Senator



Byron L. Dorgan  
United States Senator



Charles Schumer  
United States Senator



Roland Burris  
United States Senator



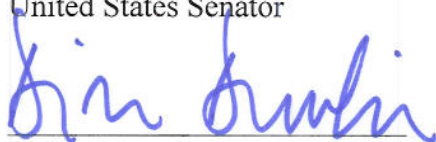
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Michael Bennet  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



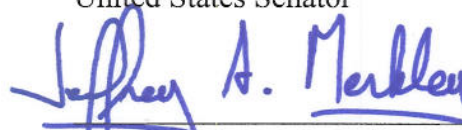
Richard Durbin  
United States Senator



Carl Levin  
United States Senator

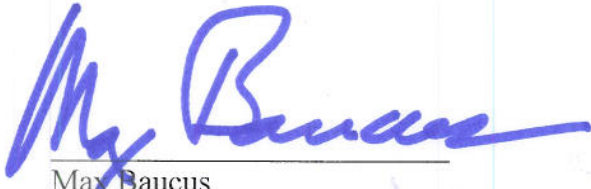


Richard Lugar  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator

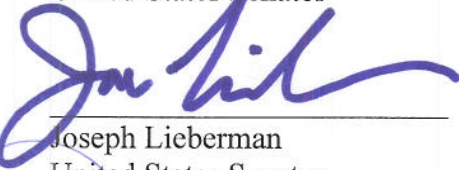




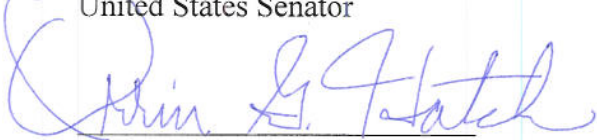
Max Baucus  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Joseph Lieberman  
United States Senator



Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator



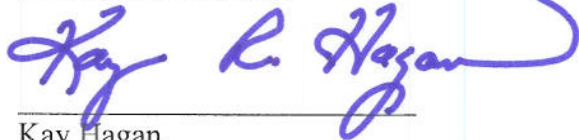
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



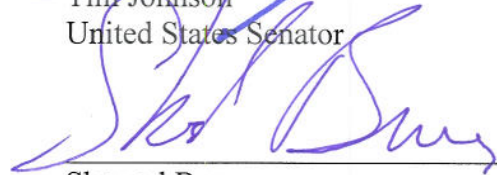
Sam Brownback  
United States Senator



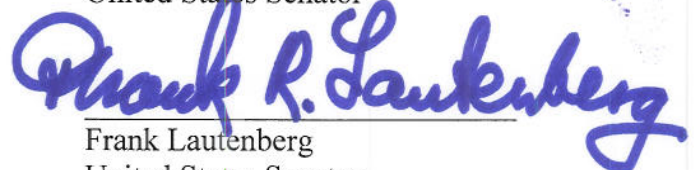
Kay Hagan  
United States Senator



Tim Johnson  
United States Senator



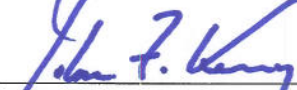
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



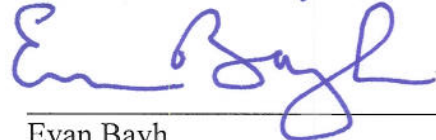
Frank Lautenberg  
United States Senator



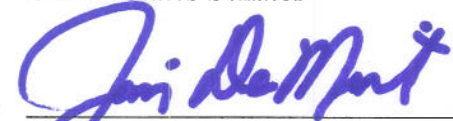
Roger Wicker  
United States Senator



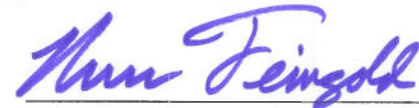
John Kerry  
United States Senator



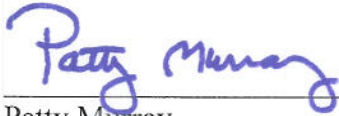
Evan Bayh  
United States Senator



Jim DeMint  
United States Senator



Russell Feingold  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



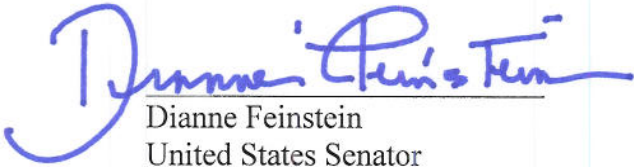
Herb Kohl  
United States Senator



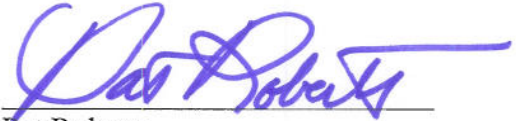
Al Franken  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Pat Roberts  
United States Senator