

February 7, 2006

His Excellency Traian Basescu  
President of Romania  
Romanian Presidency  
Cotroceni Palace  
Bd. Geniulini nr. 1-3  
Sector 6 Bucuresti  
Romania

Dear President Basescu:

As Members of the United States Congress, we write to voice our concerns over the Romanian adoption authorities' recent announcement stating that they plan to reject the remaining unresolved international adoption petitions filed between June 21, 2001 and January 1, 2005.

The Romanian authorities' action fails to demonstrate that a transparent system was used to review the cases and process the adoptions that were qualified under special ordinance 121 prior to its suspension. In addition, the action is adverse to the spirit and tenets of both international child welfare treaties to which Romania is a signatory, the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (hereinafter, "Hague Convention").


As you know, the founding principle of the Hague Convention is "that a child, for the full and harmonious development of his personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding." (Preamble) It goes on to say that while international adoption is only appropriate after "possibilities for placement of the child within the State of Origin have been given due consideration" (Article 4; Subsection B), "inter-country adoption may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her country of origin." (Preamble) This language is consistent with founding principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As a signatory to the Hague Convention, the United States is in full support of the placement priorities that it outlines: reunification with birth family or relatives, domestic adoption, international adoption, long term foster care, temporary institutionalization. However, we cannot support distorting these priorities to favor the use of non-permanent domestic placements, such as foster care or institutionalization, over inter-country adoption.

As Members of Congress who care deeply about this issue, we are committed to working with you and your government to provide for the best interest of each child. Although many of these children have been waiting for a permanent family for years, no child should have to wait in an uncertain and non-permanent state of foster care or institutionalization. We therefore urge the Romanian Government to provide a transparent account of the processing of each one of these adoptions, with the ultimate goal of finding permanent homes for every one of these 1,100 children.


We greatly appreciate your efforts to improve the lives and futures of children in Romania. We offer our unwavering support to you as you work on the important matters of child welfare and adoption, and would welcome any opportunity to work with you to ensure the best outcomes for these children. We respectfully request your personal and immediate attention to this matter to make certain this highest priority concern is addressed as expeditiously as possible and with all due diligence.

Sincerely,




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Larry E. Craig  
United States Senator



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Dave Camp  
Member of Congress



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Christopher J. Dodd  
United States Senator



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James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



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Sam Brownback  
United States Senator



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Jim Bunning  
United States Senator




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Tom Coburn  
United States Senator



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Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator



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James L. Oberstar  
Member of Congress



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John F. Kerry  
United States Senator



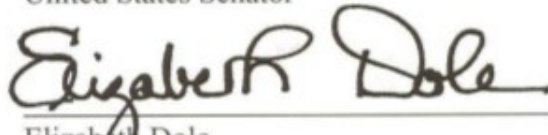
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Rick Santorum  
United States Senator



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Richard Durbin  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Dole  
United States Senator




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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



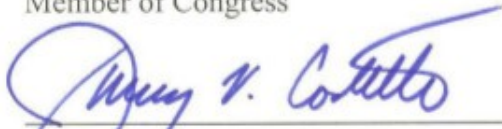
Dan Burton  
Member of Congress



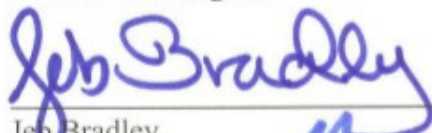
Anne Northup  
Member of Congress



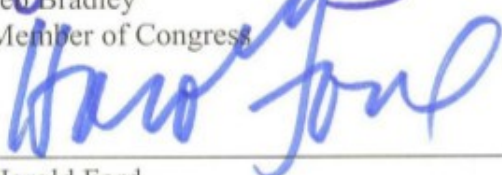
Benjamin L. Cardin  
Member of Congress



Jerry F. Costello  
Member of Congress



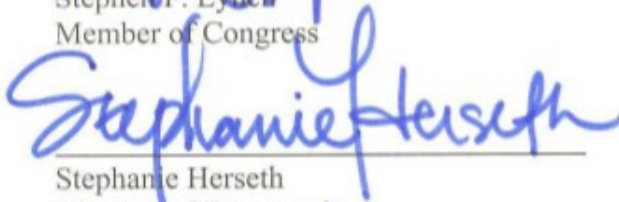
Jeb Bradley  
Member of Congress



Harold Ford  
Member of Congress



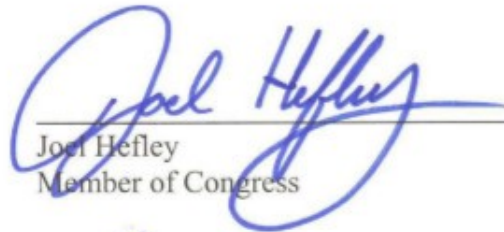
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Herseth  
Member of Congress



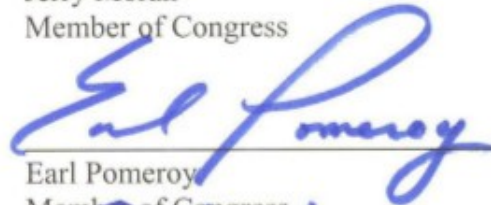
Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



Joel Hefley  
Member of Congress



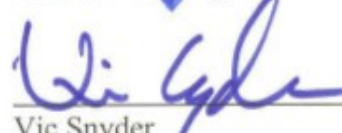
Jerry Moran  
Member of Congress



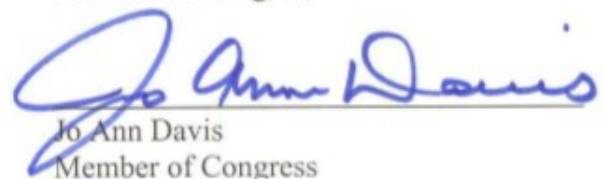
Earl Pomeroy  
Member of Congress



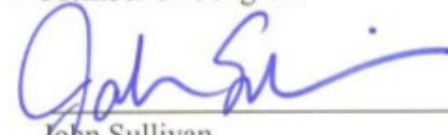
Christopher Shays  
Member of Congress



Vic Snyder  
Member of Congress



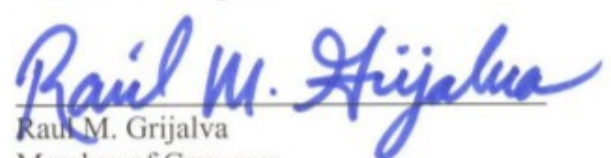
Jo Ann Davis  
Member of Congress



John Sullivan  
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

*Mark Pryor*

Mark L. Pryor  
United States Senator

*Betty McCollum*

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

*Barney Frank*

Barney Frank  
Member of Congress

*James T. Walsh*

James T. Walsh  
Member of Congress

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