

ADOPTION ADVOCACY

November 15, 2016 Adoption Advocacy Day

Sample Telephone Script

Hello,

We are calling about the proposed Department of State regulations on Intercountry Adoption. As your constituent, we are asking that the Senator/Congressperson sign the Congressional letter expressing concern about this proposed rule.

Adoption is really important to our family because we adopted our son and hope to adopt again. We're worried that these regulations will impact our ability to do so and could make what was already a very hard process even harder and more costly.

As you may be aware, the Department of State has proposed new regulations on Intercountry Adoption. These new regulations include some positive themes – like increased education for adoptive families, but overall, we're very concerned their impact on international adoptions could be devastating. The new regulations, among other concerns, will give the Department of State the authority to dictate which countries individual agencies may serve, disallow adoptive families from providing money to maintain or improve care of their child during the adoption process, and require adoption agencies to comply with costly new regulations that may slow adoptions and cause the cost of adoptions to increase. Finally, a suggestion that families who wish to adopt internationally take foster care training will further strain overburdened state child welfare systems, may delay the adoption process, and isn't training that it is appropriately targeted for the unique needs of parents adopting internationally.

Since 2004, intercountry adoptions have declined by almost 75%. This is largely due to the increased regulations which create slower, more difficult intercountry adoption processes. Meanwhile, the global population of orphaned or abandoned and homeless children increases. Willing and waiting families could make a difference for more children. The overall effect of these proposed regulations will severely limit or even end the remaining international adoptions.

November is National Adoption Month. Please take a stand for orphaned, abandoned, and vulnerable children. Every child deserves a loving, safe, and permanent family.