

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

January 23, 2026

Secretary Marco Rubio  
U.S. Department of State  
Harry S. Truman Building  
600 19<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20036

Assistant Secretary of State Mora Namdar  
Bureau of Consular Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Harry S. Truman Building  
600 19<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20036

Dear Secretary Rubio and Assistant Secretary Namdar,

We write to you on behalf of American families with pending intercountry adoption cases, who are concerned recent travel restrictions will impede their ability to unite with their adopted children.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, the safety of adopted children is our top priority, and the end of the exception of adoption visas (IR-3, IR-4, IH-3, and IH-4) from certain travel restrictions has raised our concern for these children's well-being. In June 2025, the administration placed travel restrictions on several countries with explicit exemptions for adoption visas (Proclamation 10949). On December 16, 2025, a new order (Proclamation 10998) was issued, superseding the previous directive and no longer including these exceptions for adoption visas.

This has introduced uncertainty for children and American parents who have waited years for their adoptions to be completed and were preparing to bring their children home. As you know, American families undergo rigorous vetting by the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) prior to bringing an adopted child home, and many of these adoptions are being completed by prominent, accredited faith-based adoption agencies.

In accordance with the administration's intercountry adoption guidance issued last year, we will work with you to "vigorously engage at both the policy and case levels to protect the interests of all parties involved" (7 FAM 1790). We strongly urge you to advocate for the restoration of the categorical exemption for adoption visas and immediately exercise waiver authority to:

1. Provide immediate pre-travel exemptions to families to immediately bring their children home on IR-3, IR-4, IH-3, or IH-4 visas, such as families with I-800 provisional approval and Article 5 letters; and
2. Issue clear guidance clarifying the process by which intercountry adoptions may proceed by obtaining individual exemptions prior to travel.

These children have already waited a long time for a permanent, safe, and loving family, and we are concerned about additional time they will be separated from the parents who have committed to love and care for them. We are hopeful – in line with the administration’s previous policy – you can move expeditiously to address this situation to ensure these children are united with their adoptive parents.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We will work closely with you to ensure these children are welcomed into safe and stable homes.

Sincerely,



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress