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November 5, 2003

U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI
Adoption Regulations Docket Room
SA-29
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow me to introduce myself as an international adoptive family advocate. I certainly want to protect all children from child trafficking and agree that it is in the best interest of the child to have checks and balances.

However, I am concerned that the additional burdens and costs these regulations suggest will be a further burden on international adoption agencies. It will require additional administrative costs and create a financial burden on the agencies, a financial burden that will most certainly increase fees by all international adoption agencies who will have no choice but to pass these fees on to the adoptive parents - the fees for international adoption that many families already find prohibitive. This will only mean more children who will not have forever families; more orphans who will linger in institutional care.

Finally, I am concerned that many smaller international adoption agencies will have no choice but to close their doors as a result of the extensive regulations being proposed. This will result in less competition within the market place and give international adoptive parents less choice in the selection of an agency.

Please review the proposals currently due November 14th, 2003, and present your findings in an additional draft, **not** a final regulation. This will allow more families and adoption agencies to respond to the proposal and provide added feedback to those drafting the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Betsy Yelverton
Adoptive Parent Advocate

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