

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write to you today concerning the plight of Chinese children waiting to be united with their adoptive American families and respectfully request that you raise this matter with the highest levels of the Chinese government. Elevating this discussion diplomatically will help bring a prompt resolution for children in need. Further U.S. engagement by the State Department with the Chinese government can then follow and yield solutions that allow adoptive parents to travel to China. Uniting children in need with loving families is a universal concern that transcends both ideology and nationality. We respectfully ask for your help in continuing this decades-long tradition of intercountry adoption between our two countries.

As you know, American adoption agencies report that some 400 fully approved adoptive families are only awaiting Travel Approval from the Chinese government in order to finalize their adoptions and bring their children home. Many additional families are experiencing delays and uncertainties in earlier stages of the China adoption process which cannot be overcome until China adoption travel resumes.

In January of 2021, the Chinese government sent the welcome confirmation to both U.S. adoption service providers and adoptive parents that despite COVID-19 restrictions, they will eventually allow adoptions to resume. However, China has made it clear that the decision to restart adoption travel will be made at the highest level. The level of diplomatic engagement must be raised accordingly. China has recently re-opened certain types of travel including family reunification and we are hopeful that—if viewed as a diplomatic priority—travel authorization could be approved for waiting adoptive families on a compassionate, humanitarian basis. We encourage the designation of senior reciprocal points of contact between our governments, so that criteria for medical safety and travel can be efficiently established.

In a significant number of cases, adoptive children have ongoing and deteriorating medical conditions, some of which are critical, yet adoption travel remains indefinitely halted. This area of concern can be resolved if Travel Approvals are issued. Families in the U.S. are eager to work closely with the authorities involved in order to bring their children home and provide the medical care they need. Congress and adoptive families appreciate the dedicated work of the Office of Children's Issues at the State Department, as well as the updates from the Chinese adoption authorities.

While the coronavirus pandemic upended people's lives across the world, it is critical for the sake of both children and families that we restart this adoption process. We respectfully request that you raise to the highest levels our diplomatic engagement, so that our decades-long partnership with China on intercountry adoptions may successfully be renewed.

Thank you for your consideration of this important humanitarian request.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress

Charles J Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Gerald E Connolly
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.
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Brian Mast
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
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Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross
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Rob Wittman
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman
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Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Don Young
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Peter Welch
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Gary Palmer
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Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Trey Hollingsworth
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Susan Wild
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Jim Himes
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Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

William Timmons
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Roger Williams
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August Pfluger
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
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Darin LaHood
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Colin Allred
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Barry Loudermilk
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Patrick McHenry
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Beth Van Duyne
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Kevin Hern
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Jeff Van Drew
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Vicky Hartzler
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Scott DesJarlais
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Mo Brooks
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Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

Marie Newman
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Mike Turner
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Jim Jordan
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Kat Cammack
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Andy Biggs
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Madeleine Dean
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Anthony Gonzalez
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Jody Hice
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Ashley Hinson
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Chip Roy
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Peter Meijer
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Tom Rice
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Rick Larsen
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Bob Gibbs
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