

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary
United States Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We write to advocate for immediately uniting American host families with Ukrainian children who are already engaged in the adoption process, based on the shared belief that every child deserves a safe, stable, and loving place to call home.

There are approximately 300 Ukrainian children who are waiting to join their American adoptive families or host families. Regardless of where children are within the adoption process, protecting vulnerable children should remain a top priority for Ukraine and the United States.

We urge the State Department to take the following actions to protect these children from harm and trauma, including trafficking:

1. Identify Impacted Children and Families: In collaboration with the Ukrainian government and U.S.-based organizations, the State Department should immediately identify children in Ukraine who American families seek to host or rehost while waiting for the full adoptive process to move forward. Children often form important emotional bonds with the adoptive families with whom they have been “matched,” even before the adoption process is complete and many of these children have previously traveled to the United States and lived with these American families in their homes for hosting trips.

2. Allow Adoption-Eligible Children to Travel to Live with American Host Families in the U.S.: The State Department should immediately use its powers under the law to work with the Ukraine government and find a way forward that will allow children with in-process adoptions to travel to the United States to stay with their host families in the United States instead of requiring these children to remain in other locations for displaced persons in Europe, or in Ukraine.

Many of these children may be appropriately given refuge in neighboring countries. However, we believe that in the unique circumstances where children already have established relationships with families in the United States, it is appropriate to prioritize allowing these children to stay with host families to ensure the child’s safety and stability.

While we recognize that the adoption process should only be advanced where it is safe, ethical, and appropriate to do so, American families seeking to adopt or be host families for a Ukrainian

child are eager to welcome these children into their home and provide the affection, stability, and safety all children deserve. As you continue to lead the United States' diplomatic response to the invasion of Ukraine, we request that you raise our concerns regarding these children in institutionalized care to the highest levels of our diplomatic engagement, so that they are prioritized in protection and response measures.

We appreciate the efforts of your Department and those of our allies in working to protect those that flee violence. Thank you for your consideration of these important objectives and for the Office of Children's Issues commitment to supporting vulnerable children in Ukraine. We look forward to working with you on this urgent issue.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



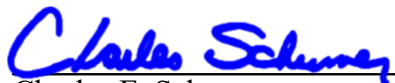
Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Adam Smith
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Robert B. Aderholt
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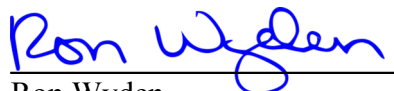
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Richard J. Durbin
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Charles E. Grassley
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Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



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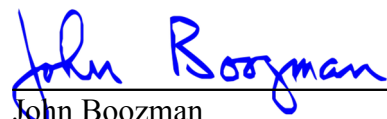
Raphael G. Warnock
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Susan M. Collins
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Richard Blumenthal
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John Boozman
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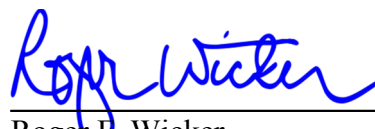
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



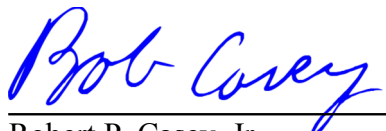
Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



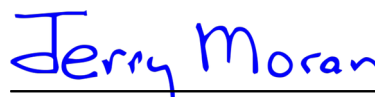
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Jerry Moran
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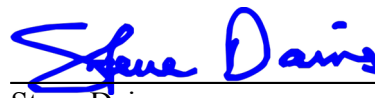
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United States Senator



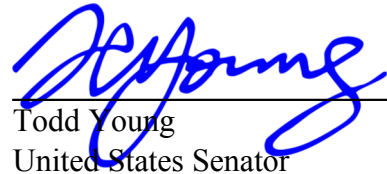
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



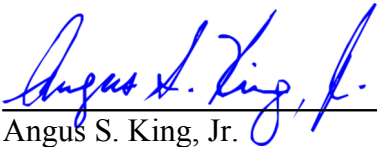
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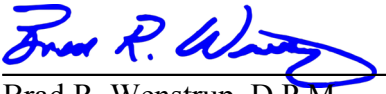
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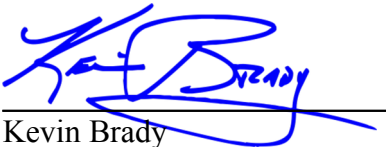
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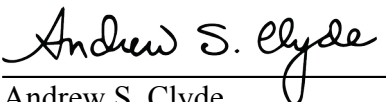
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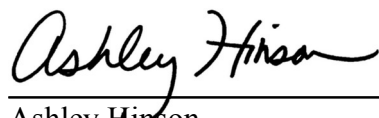
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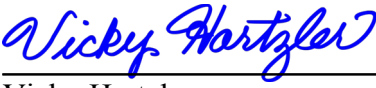
~~Rick Warren~~
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Michael T. McCaul
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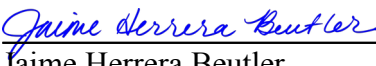
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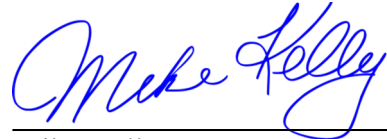
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Cory A. Booker
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