

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

July 16, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We write to ask for your personal engagement to resolve over 900 international adoption cases of Congolese children who either have been or are in the process of being adopted by American families, yet who are unable to obtain Congolese exit permits due to a suspension in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We understand that you have invited President Joseph Kabila to Washington in August for the first ever U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, and we urge you to use this event and the time leading up to it as an opportunity to press for an expeditious resolution that is in the best interest of these children.

In September 2013, the DRC suspended the issuance of exit permits for children adopted by foreign parents, reportedly due to concerns about suspected malfeasance in the local DRC adoption process and lack of information about the well-being of adopted children after they arrived in their new homes. This suspension is having tragic consequences for these children as they wait to be united with their American families. Already, 10 children who were matched with American families have died since the suspension went into place and many more have urgent, life-threatening medical problems. There are over 350 children who have been legally adopted by US families and have been given Congolese passports and U.S. visas, but are still waiting for exit letters to be able to leave the DRC.

Overcoming this impasse is a priority for many in Congress and we appreciate the State Department's efforts to raise this issue with its Congolese counterparts. In April of this year, a bipartisan and bicameral group of 170 Members of Congress wrote to President Kabila and Prime Minister Matata Ponyo, urging the DRC government to resume processing exit permits for adopted children. To date, there has been no official response to this letter. Secretary Kerry raised this issue directly with President Kabila during his visit to Kinshasa in May and later that month the DRC government did release exit letters for 19 children adopted by American families, 4 of whom were medically fragile. Unfortunately, this represented only a small percentage of the completed cases and leaves dozens of critically ill children without the medical care they need to survive. The U.S. Department of State has continuously engaged the Congolese government to resolve the remaining completed cases, but to date all overtures have been unsuccessful. For example, when the DRC Director of General Migration (DGM) Francois Beya visited the United States in June, he received multiple requests for meetings ranging from State Department officials to Members of Congress. Mr. Beya declined to schedule any meetings on

the suspended exit permit issue. That is why we are requesting your direct engagement with President Kabila.


We respectfully request that you raise this human rights crisis with President Kabila prior to his attendance at the U.S.-African Leaders Summit next month, and then use the opportunity of the summit to press for a firm resolution. We would appreciate your leadership on this issue to help unite these children and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Mary Landrieu


  
Senator James M. Inhofe

  
Representative Michele Bachmann

  
Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson

  
Representative Trent Franks


  
Representative Collin C. Peterson


  
Senator Bob Corker

  
Senator Mitch McConnell

  
Senator Barbara Mikulski

  
Senator Tom Harkin

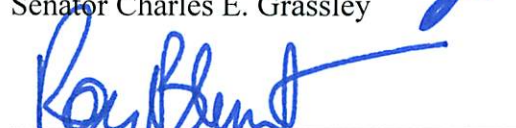
  
Senator Claire McCaskill

  
Senator Elizabeth Warren

  
Senator Kay R. Hagan

  
Senator Charles E. Grassley

  
Senator Richard Burr

  
Senator Roy Blunt





Senator Sherrod Brown



Senator Ted Cruz



Senator Debbie Stabenow



Senator Michael B. Enzi



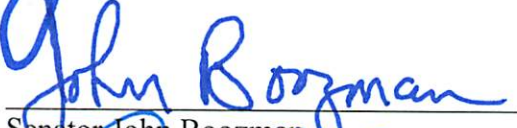
Senator Barbara Boxer



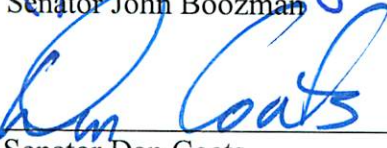
Senator Angus S. King, Jr.



Senator John Barrasso



Senator John Boozman



Senator Dan Coats



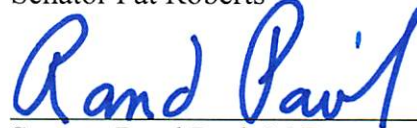
Senator Maria Cantwell



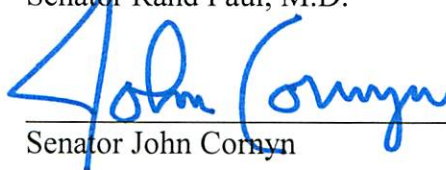
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand



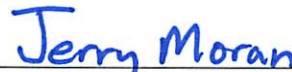
Senator Pat Roberts



Senator Rand Paul, M.D.



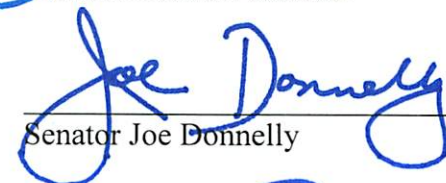
Senator John Cornyn



Senator Jerry Moran



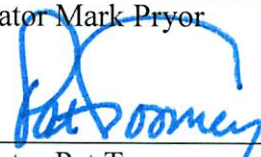
Senator Dianne Feinstein



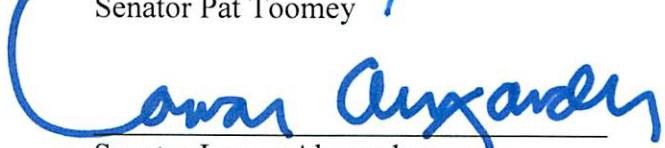
Senator Joe Donnelly



Senator Mark Pryor



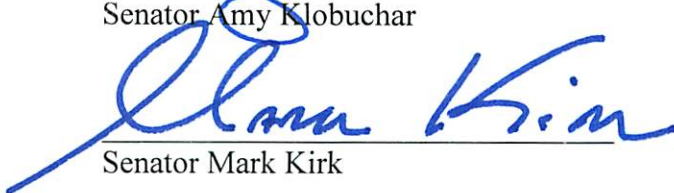
Senator Pat Toomey



Senator Lamar Alexander



Senator Amy Klobuchar



Senator Mark Kirk



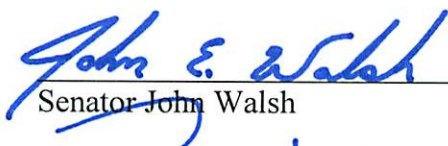
Senator David Vitter



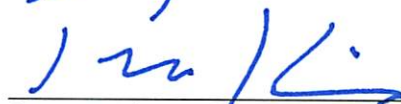
Senator Heidi Heitkamp



Senator Edward J. Markey



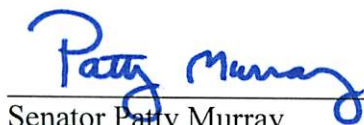
Senator John Walsh



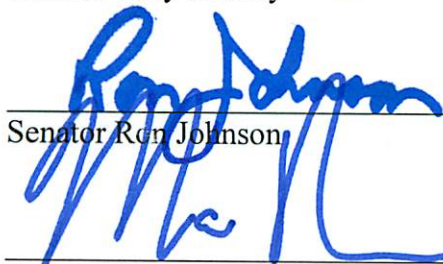
Senator Tim Kaine



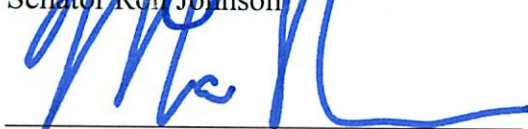
Senator Mark Udall



Senator Patty Murray



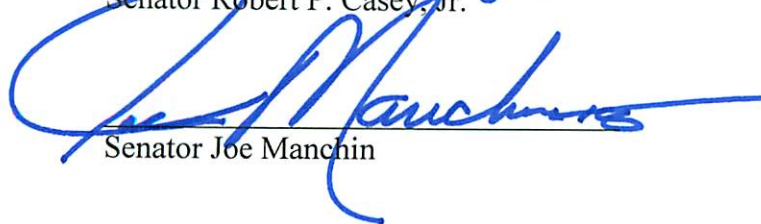
Senator Ron Johnson



Senator Marco Rubio



Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Senator Joe Manchin



Senator Al Franken



Senator Deb Fischer



Senator Jeanne Shaheen



Senator Lisa Murkowski



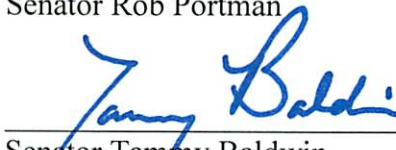
Senator Mark R. Warner



Senator Mike Johanns



Senator Rob Portman



Senator Tammy Baldwin



Senator Tim Johnson



Senator Jeffrey A. Merkley

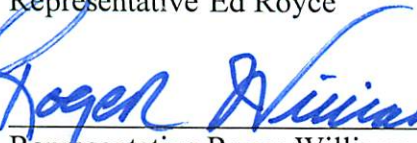


Senator Carl Levin



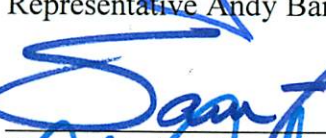
  
Representative Karen Bass


  
Representative Ed Royce

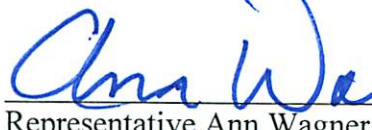
  
Representative Roger Williams

  
Representative André Carson


  
Representative Andy Barr

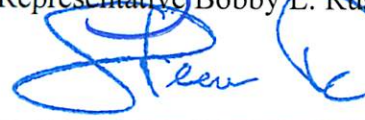
  
Representative Sam Farr

  
Representative Adam Smith

  
Representative Ann Wagner

  
Representative Tim Huelskamp

  
Representative Bobby L. Rush

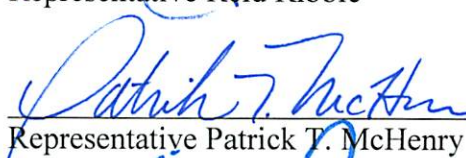
  
Representative Steve Daines

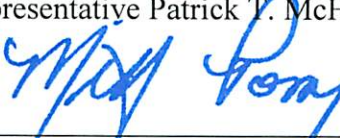
  
Representative Tom Latham

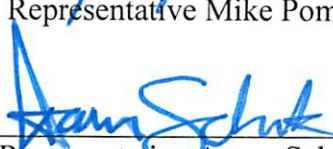
  
Representative Chris Smith

  
Representative Jim Renacci

  
Representative Reid Ribble


  
Representative Patrick T. McHenry

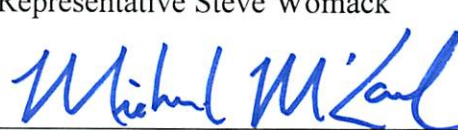
  
Representative Mike Pompeo

  
Representative Aaron Schock

  
Representative John Larson

  
Representative Jim McDermott

  
Representative Steve Womack

  
Representative Michael McCaul


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Representative Joyce Beatty

  
Representative Bradley Byrne

  
Representative Don Young

X   
Representative Stephen Fincher

  
Representative Mike Simpson

X   
Representative Cynthia M. Lummis


X   
Representative Filemon Vela

X   
Representative Frank R. Wolf

  
Representative John F. Tierney


X   
Representative Bill Flores

  
Representative Charles Rangel

  
Representative John Kline

X   
Representative Chellie Pingree

  
Representative Corrine Brown

  
Representative Bruce Braley

  
Representative Alcee L. Hastings

  
Representative Spencer Bachus

X   
Representative George Holding

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Representative Jim Cooper

  
Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer

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Representative Bill Huizenga

X   
Representative Dave Camp





Representative Earl Blumenauer



Representative John Shimkus



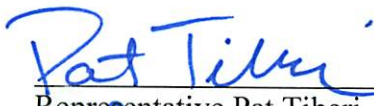
Representative Lloyd Doggett



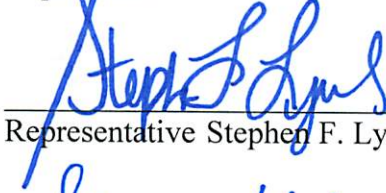
Representative Marc Veasey



Representative Mike Honda



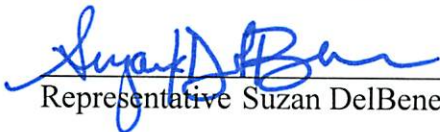
Representative Pat Tiberi



Representative Stephen F. Lynch



Representative Steve King



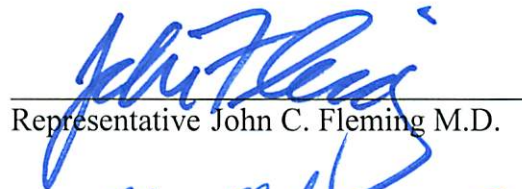
Representative Suzan DelBene



Representative Blake Farenthold



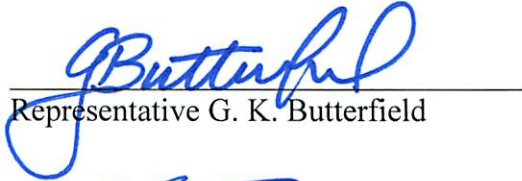
Representative Chuck Fleischmann



Representative John C. Fleming M.D.



Representative Kenny Marchant



Representative G. K. Butterfield



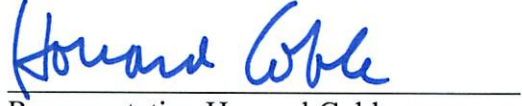
Representative Marlin Stutzman



Representative Gene Green



Representative Pete Sessions



Representative Howard Coble



Representative Susan W. Brooks



Representative Suzanne Bonamici



Representative Ann McLane Kuster



Representative Mark Meadows



Representative Diane Black



Representative Doug Lamborn



Representative James Lankford



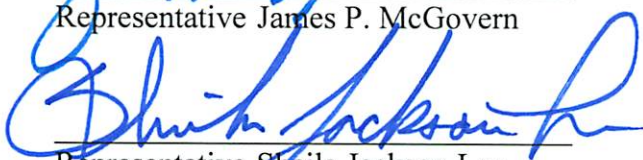
Representative Tim Griffin



Representative James P. McGovern



Representative Tom Cotton



Representative Sheila Jackson Lee



Representative Scott Rigell



Representative Ted Poe



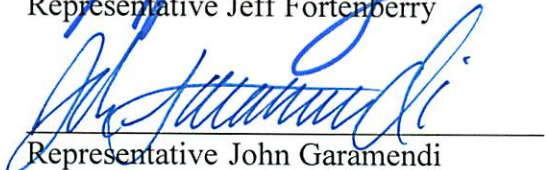
Representative Adam B. Schiff



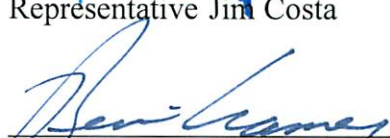
Representative Jeff Fortenberry



Representative Jim Costa



Representative John Garamendi



Representative Kevin Cramer



Representative Kristi Noem



Representative Mark Pocan



Representative Marsha Blackburn



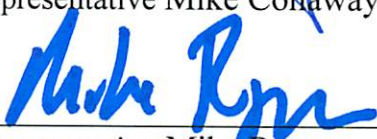
Representative Michael Burgess



Representative Mike Conaway



Representative Mike Fitzpatrick




Representative Mike Rogers - AL



Representative Niki Tsongas

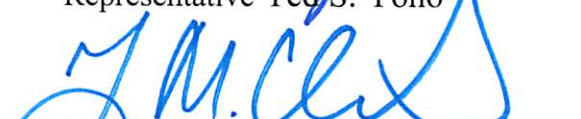


  
Representative Rick Nolan

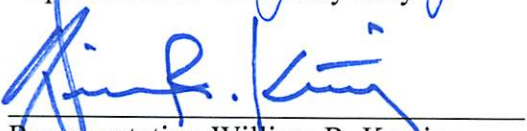
  
Representative Scott Perry

  
Representative Steve Stivers

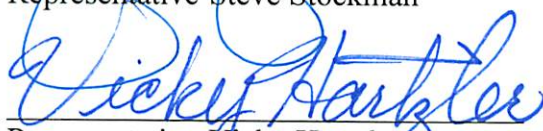
  
Representative Ted S. Yoho

  
Representative Tom McClintock

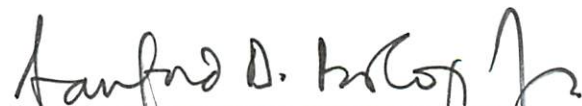
  
Representative Wm. Lacy Clay

  
Representative William R. Keating


  
Representative Steve Stockman

  
Representative Vicky Hartzler

  
Representative Beto O'Rourke


  
Representative Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

  
Representative Sean Duffy

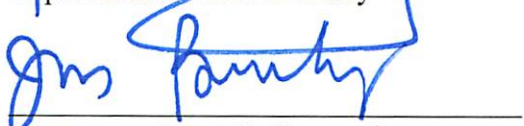
  
Representative Susan A. Davis

  
Representative Terri Sewell

  
Representative Frederica Wilson

  
Representative John Yarmuth

  
Representative Kevin Brady

  
Representative Julia Brownley

  
Representative Michael H. Michaud