

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
www.grassley.senate.gov
- ☐ 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2106
(515) 288-1145
- ☐ 111 7TH AVENUE, SE, BOX 13
SUITE 6800
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 120 FEDERAL BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- ☐ 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- ☐ 201 WEST 2ND STREET
SUITE 720
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1817
(563) 322-4331
- ☐ 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

September 17, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

His Excellency Xie Feng
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the People's Republic of China in the United States of America
3505 International Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008 U.S.A.

Dear Ambassador Xie,

Please see the enclosed communication and documentation from Tim and Jodi Carosone regarding the adoption of their child who currently resides in the People's Republic of China (PRC).

I am concerned about the announcement made by your country to end intercountry adoptions. The U.S. Department of State announced that it received notice of this decision which began August 28, 2024, but has not provided further clarification.¹ This halt on intercountry adoptions is heart wrenching to many American families who have been paired with orphan children in the PRC. Many of these families have already received an official "Letter of Seeking Confirmation from Adopter" from your central authority for the Hague Adoption Convention, the China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption. This letter certifies that the PRC has paired a child with a family and that the family made the decision to proceed with the adoption.

Parents have been left without instruction or clarity on if the children they have been paired with, named, and are growing a connection with will ever actually get placed in their home. I understand this decision to halt intercountry adoptions is within the PRC's purview. That said, China should not go back on the promises made to children and families and instead ought to allow for adoptions that have already been in the works to be finalized. Families should be united and children who were paired with a loving home should not be deceived and left in orphanages away from their adoptive parents.

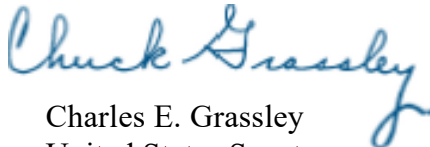
To improve my understanding on the impacts that your country's decision to end intercountry adoptions will have and to provide clarity to hundreds of Americans on the fate of their families, I ask that you respond to the following questions as soon as possible:

¹ "Status of Intercountry Adoptions in People's Republic of China," U.S. Department of State-Bureau of Consular Affairs, September 6, 2024. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/Intercountry-Adoption-News/status-of-intercountry-adoptions-in-people-s-republic-of-china-.html>.

1. Will families that have received an official letter from the China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption be permitted to finalize their adoptions?
 - a. If not, what are the specific reasons for going back on the written commitment provided to families?
2. Will the Ministry of Civil Affairs clarify details surrounding the decision to no longer carry out foreign adoption work?
 - a. When will that information be communicated to prospective parents?
 - b. When will that information be communicated to the public?
3. Are adoptive parents in other countries permitted to finalize their adoption cases that are currently open?

I have been an advocate in the Senate for adoption for decades and will continue to be. Kids everywhere deserve a family and the safety and security of loving parents. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chuck" and last name "Grassley" clearly legible.

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator