

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501  
(202) 224-3744  
[www.grassley.senate.gov](http://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

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

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 (China).

I am concerned about the announcement made by China 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.<sup>1</sup> This halt on intercountry adoptions is heart wrenching to many American families who have been paired with orphan children in China. Many of these families have already received an official "Letter of Seeking Confirmation from Adopter" from the China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption. This letter certifies that China 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. This is not the first time that China has left families uncertain about their child's future. In 2022, I spoke on the Senate floor about China's blockade on adoptive parents and shared how that decision was denying children the opportunity to go home to their parents.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, China continues to keep children separated from their adoptive parents. China's previous decision to not allow adoptive parents into its country was related to COVID-19, which was somewhat understandable at the time. However, the "temporary precaution" seemed to be deliberately keeping families apart when Olympians, students, and tourists were able to enter China, but parents could not. At that time, my concern was for the families and children that were already matched and had made arrangements to welcome children from China into their homes. Those concerns remain.

---

<sup>1</sup> "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>.

<sup>2</sup> "Grassley: Chinese Blockades on Adoption are Hurting Children and Families," Prepared Floor Remarks by U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, January 10, 2022. <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-chinese-blockades-on-adoption-are-hurting-children-and-families>.

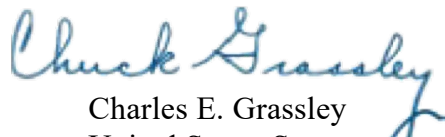
I understand China's decision to halt intercountry adoptions is within its purview. That said, China should not go back on its promises to children and families and instead ought to allow for adoptions that have already been in the works to be finalized. Families should be united and children who were paired with a loving home should not be deceived and left in orphanages away from their parents.

To improve my understanding on the impacts that China'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 immediately:

1. What steps has your department taken to seek written clarification from China about its decision to end intercountry adoptions?
2. Are there current efforts within your department to advocate that families that are in the process of adopting a child from China be able to finish that process?
  - a. If so, what are those efforts and when will that information be shared with the public?
3. In your department's announcement, it was stated that prospective adoptive parents with cases in process will be communicated with about China's decision. What communication have you provided to those families?
  - a. What steps is your department taking to ensure that families have the most accurate and up-to-date information on the status of their adoption?
4. Is your department aware of any credible cases in which China is allowing parents in other countries to finalize with their adoptions?
  - a. If so, what countries?

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,

  
Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator