



December 16, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As chief executives of our states, we write to you in support of the enduring commitment of the American people to the proposition that, “Every child deserves to know the unconditional love of a permanent home.”¹

We are deeply concerned about the hundreds of vulnerable children in China who have been matched with loving American families awaiting the finalization of their adoptions—a viable pathway to permanency that has been indefinitely delayed since the People’s Republic of China (PRC) announced that foreign adoptions will no longer proceed effective August 28, 2024. Hundreds of prospective adoptive families across 44 U.S. states have been left in a state of uncertainty since this announcement. We implore you to engage President Xi directly on this critical issue and ensure our governments work together to fulfill the commitments made to these children and families.

¹ A Proclamation on National Adoption Month, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/10/31/a-proclamation-on-national-adoption-month/>, October 31, 2024.

As parties to the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, the U.S. and PRC have collaborated to find permanent homes for over 82,000 Chinese children. The Convention requires exhausting in-country solutions before pursuing intercountry adoption. For the nearly 300 waiting children, all of whom have medical and emotional needs, both the China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption and the U.S. Department of State have determined intercountry adoption to be in their best interest.

While China's decision to cease intercountry adoptions is within its purview, we believe the adoptions already in process in accordance with the Hague Convention should be completed. Many of these children have already bonded with their prospective American families through hosting programs. Recognizing these attachments and the resolve of their matched families to provide loving homes is developmentally appropriate and upholds the commitments made. It is time for these children to come home to their forever families.

We appreciate the Department of State's efforts to seek clarity and unite these children with their waiting families. However, our understanding is this policy decision was made at the highest levels in the PRC, necessitating your direct intervention on behalf of American families, as requested by the bipartisan, bicameral congressional letter you received on November 1, 2024. The PRC may be continuing adoptions for families from other countries—we hope American families are afforded the same opportunity. Your leadership could be life-altering for these children, families, and communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We stand ready to work alongside you to act quickly and decisively in the best interests of these children.

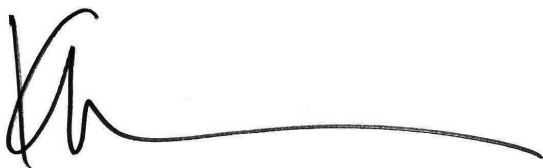
Sincerely,



Governor Kay Ivey
State of Alabama



Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga
American Samoa



Governor Katie Hobbs
State of Arizona



Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California



Governor Jared Polis
State of Colorado



Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut



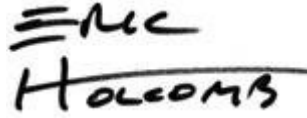
Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida



Governor Brian Kemp
State of Georgia



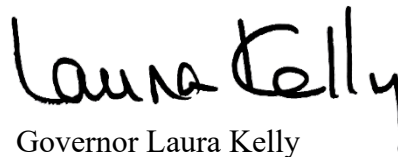
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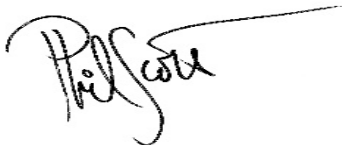
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Governor Greg Abbott
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