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May 30, 2008

Dear Congressman Kaelleneng,

I am writing this letter to urge you to join the Congressional Coalition on Adoption co-chairs and sign their letter to Secretary Condoleeza Rice in support of the recommendations found in Joint Council's ~~A Child's Right Campaign for Vietnam~~. For more information on ~~A Child's Right Campaign for Vietnam~~ you can contact the Congressional Coalition for Adoption Institute at (202) 544-8500 or Joint Council on International Children's Services at (703) 535-8045.

An interim Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is vital to continue permanency services in Vietnam including the processing of adoptions to U.S. families. If the MOA is allowed to expire on September 1, 2008 it will effectively stop all adoptions from Vietnam to the U.S. for at least 2 years.

While no one supports child trafficking or family coercion the Department of State's current plan to stop the program until Vietnam is ready to ratify the Hague Convention is not the solution. This course of action does not solve the current problems in Vietnam, rather it leaves them unchecked and the children and families open to more abuse. ~~A Child's Right for Vietnam~~ offers national recommendations for children and families in both Vietnam and the United States.

For these reasons I again urge you to sign the Congressional Coalition on Adoption's letter to Secretary Condoleeza Rice in support of the recommendations found in Joint Council's ~~A Child's Right Campaign for Vietnam~~.

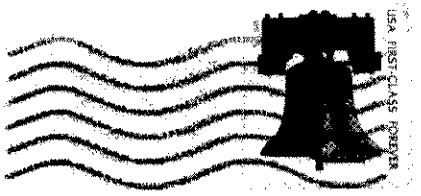
Sincerely,

Karen Clement

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