



#43030, PO Box 85073  
Richmond, VA 23285-5073  
Phone: (804) 767-1841  
[www.origins-usa.org](http://www.origins-usa.org)  
[info@origins-usa.org](mailto:info@origins-usa.org)

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street  
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Adoptions from Russia

Dear Secretary Clinton,

As President of Origins-USA, a tax exempt, nonprofit corporation working to protect the rights of mothers to nurture their children, I urge the State Department to stop adoptions from Russia and to curtail international adoptions. These adoptions are fraught with disruption and corruption.

The case of Artyom Savelyev (Justin Hansen) who was sent back to Russian by his would-be adoptive mother Torry Hansen is just one of many where Americans brought a child to the US, woefully unprepared to care for the child. Many of these children are returned, albeit quietly, or placed in US treatment facilities often paid for by a state's child welfare funds. In the most extreme cases, children are murdered by their adoptive parents. Even the children who come into good homes suffer the trauma of losing all that is familiar to them, their mothers and extended family, their language, and their culture.

There are also many, many cases of fraud where children who are not orphans are kidnapped. Others are purchased from destitute parents who are misled into believing their child will return when he is grown.

Meanwhile, thousands of American children are languishing in foster care, in part because the adoption industry has convinced would-be parents that American children are too difficult. State

child welfare professionals are forth-coming about the needs of these children while adoption agencies, often money-making enterprises, conceal the behavioral problems of foreign children. Consequently, would-be parents pay \$30,000 plus to bring children to the US (offset by the adoption tax credit of \$12,150) while they could adopt an American child at no cost.

Adoption agencies lack the resources (or in many cases the inclination) to help these adoptive families after the child arrives while state child welfare departments provide on-going assistance in the form of treatment, counseling, and in some cases, financial aid. Additionally, the American children may be able to maintain contact with their natural families, to the benefit of all.

Unquestionably, poor children abroad need help. Tens of millions are starving, enslaved, forced into prostitution, or conscripted into armies. The answer to child poverty is not bringing a few thousand each year to the US for adoption (even if they came to good homes) but programs which improve the economies of poor countries, provide education, and supply basic facilities like clean water. We know that you and the Obama administration are working to provide these services. Additionally, many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are helping these families but they are stretched thin. Americans who want to help poor children should donate to these charities or consider volunteering for service abroad.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernadette Wright".

Bernadette Wright, PhD, President  
Origins-USA