

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 18, 2020

The Honorable Lynn Johnson
Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Carl C. Risch
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Consular Affairs
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Assistant Secretary Johnson and Assistant Secretary Risch:

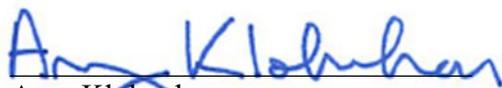
We encourage you to continue to take action to raise awareness of the importance of adoption and foster care during National Adoption Month. With approximately 424,000 children in foster care across the country – approximately 122,200 of those children waiting to be adopted – and nearly 140 million orphans worldwide, it is important to work together to strengthen efforts to help these children find permanent homes.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is presenting challenges to our country and to people around the world and has greatly impacted adoption – both domestically and internationally – and foster care. We must work to ensure that we protect vulnerable children and families and provide the resources and support needed during this public health crisis. We urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of State to help children find permanent homes through adoption from the foster care system, domestic private agencies, intercountry adoption, and family guardianship. We also urge you to advocate for much-needed support and resources for foster youth and children waiting to be adopted, both domestically and internationally, as well as for the people working to find children loving and permanent homes.

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Adoption Caucus, we believe that – together – we can help increase awareness and build support for those who provide the resources, services, and partnerships that help improve the lives of our children, especially during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. All children deserve much more than just a roof over their heads and a bed to sleep in – they deserve a loving home, a nurturing family, and a brighter future. We can and must do more to ensure that children grow up in safe and nurturing families.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator