



July 29, 2026

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The Honorable Senator Mike Lee
U.S. Senate, 363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Citizenship for International Adoptees 2026 Act

Dear Senator Lee:

On behalf of the Academy of Adoption & Assisted Reproduction Attorneys [AAAA], we write to express our strong support for the Citizenship for International Adoptees 2026 Act, which will provide for the acquisition of United States citizenship for certain individuals who were adopted internationally.

AAAA is represented by over 470 attorneys from the United States and abroad who specialize in adoption law, assisted reproductive technology law (ART) or both. AAAA provides a credentialed presence in the law of family formation and is the largest professional organization of its type dedicated to advancing the security of children through permanent adoption, the protection of children through safe and secure foster care with appropriate permanency planning, and the recognition of intended parents as legal parents for those using modern medical technology to build families through assisted reproductive technology.

During the past several decades we have advocated for such a bill, believing that individuals who were adopted as children by U.S. citizens should have all the rights and privileges of biological children of U.S. citizens. Through historic gaps in federal law, however, thousands of these adoptees did not receive U.S. citizenship. The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 went part-way to remedy this injustice, but it was not retroactive. It did not address the small number of international adoptees adopted prior to that Act. It is time to close this remaining gap.

Since 1945, the United States has welcomed children from around the world through international adoption. These children were raised in American families, attended American schools, were part of our communities, and have lived their lives as Americans. Yet because of immigration and citizenship laws, thousands of international adoptees remain without U.S. citizenship. As a result, some adoptees continue to face significant legal uncertainty despite having spent their entire lives in the United States.

This legislation would correct a longstanding inequity. It reflects the fundamental principle that children legally adopted by American citizens should enjoy the same security and legal status as other members of their families.

Providing citizenship to these adoptees promotes family stability, recognizes the commitments made by adoptive families, and remedies an unintended consequence of earlier legislation and regulations. It is both a matter of fairness and an affirmation of America's longstanding support for permanent family placement for children in need.

We are grateful that you have introduced this legislation and look forward to working toward its prompt enactment.

Sincerely,


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