



January 20, 2010

U.S. Sen. John McCain
241 Russell Senate Ofc. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Attn: Joseph Donoghue

Dear Sen. McCain:

Thank you for taking the time with me today to discuss the current adoption issues facing the orphans in Haiti.

Before the devastating earthquake Jan. 12, Haiti was beset by a large orphan epidemic. The earthquake has compounded that epidemic enormously, and now more than ever we face a problem that has been plaguing Haiti adoptions for the last three years.

Legislation from 1972 constitutes the only real adoption laws on the books in Haiti. Although the nation was not following these laws to the letter, it did a wonderful job of applying appropriate levels of scrutiny and due diligence to the adoptions that took place.

Three years ago, the country was basically forced to revisit its adoption laws and enforce them to the letter. The 1972 laws make international adoption from Haiti into the U.S. very prohibitive and discriminatory. They require that, to adopt a child from Haiti, the prospective parent must be between 35 and 50 years old, must have been married for at least 10 years, and must have no biological offspring.

From a rational perspective these rules seem arbitrary at best, and disqualify many wonderful families who could provide a loving and nurturing home for a child from Haiti. But now they present a harsh roadblock that many newly-orphaned children will be unable to overcome.

In our meeting today you gave me your support to help me repeal these laws immediately so we can begin the process of re-energizing and revitalizing adoptions from Haiti into the U.S. I will do whatever is necessary and whatever you think I should do to support efforts to repeal these laws.

I appreciate your willingness to help spearhead this effort, and with your stature and leadership, I believe we will complete this task quickly. I will follow up next week to coordinate with you and your staff on the next actions I need to take.

Sincerely Yours,

Craig Juntunen
Founder
Chances for Children

cc: Robert Sarver