Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 18, 2013

His Excellency, President Vladimir Putin
President of the Russian Federation
The Kremlin
Moscow, Russia

Dear President Putin,

We write to respectfully request that the Government of Russia allow completion of the pending adoption cases involving Russian children who were matched with U.S. families prior to the enactment of the Russian law "On Measures of Coercion on Persons, Involved in the Violation of the Rights of Russian Citizens." As you know, we are concerned with the entirety of the law, which permanently bans adoptions of Russian children by U.S. citizens, but we hope that you agree that it is in the best interests of the hundreds of children who have already met and bonded with a U.S. family to permit their adoption cases to proceed to conclusion.

As you are aware, many of the children involved in these cases have special medical needs and the families with whom they have been matched have been found by Russian officials to be willing and able to accommodate these needs. Experience shows that finding families for older and special needs children is more difficult. Removing the option for these children to be adopted by families in the United States will further exacerbate these challenges, increasing the risk that they will spend their formative years in an institution, and diminishing their hopes for a productive future.

The matched children believed they were soon going to become part of a safe, loving and permanent family. Children everywhere deserve the love and support that only a family can provide. The U.S. families matched with these children already love them like their own and have invested a great deal of time and resources in pursuit of a final adoption. We appeal to you to look beyond politics and see the people this law most directly affects.

On November 1, 2012, our two countries entered into a bilateral agreement. We believe this agreement was based on our shared desire to provide orphaned children safe and loving homes. We remain hopeful that in the spirit of this original agreement and out of concern for the futures of these children, we can complete the final cases of any children who were matched with a U.S. family before the law entered into force.

We ask you, as a father, to make the finalization of these cases a priority.

Sincerely,

Roy Blunt

Mary L. Landrieu

James M. Inhofe

Michele Bachmann

Karen Bass

Jack Reed

Sherrod Brown

Dick Durbin

Barbara A. Mikulski

Gene McCaskill

David Vitter

John Cornyn

Jeanne Shaheen

Clam Kirk

Thad Cochran

Chuck Grassley

Pat Roberts

Debbie Stabenow

Amy Klobuchar

Maria Cantwell

John Boozman

Ron Wyden

Sheldon Whitehouse

Amy Klobuchar

Brent Fitzianks

Ron Wicker

Mark R Warner

Jeff Sessions

Michael B. Enzi

[illegible]

Jim Bunning

Brian Higgins

[illegible]

Steve King IA-04

Bob Goodlatte

Jim Moran

Tom Harkin

Al Franken

Frank R. Lautenberg

Patrick Leahy

Tom Cole

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Jerry Moran

Bob Carey, Jr.

Bill Nelson

[illegible]

Daniel Lipinski

John F. Tierney

[illegible]

Hank Johnson

Henry A. Waxman

Raul M. Grijalva

Charles B. Rangel

Bill Foster

McKinney Mullin

Erik Paulsen

Jim Langevin

Peter Roskam

Brett Guthrie

Jane Carney

Barbara Lee

Stephen F. Lynch

Dave Loebsack

Tom Price

Tim Ryan

Ann Kuster

Tom Marino

Cynthia M. Lummis

Pat Tiberi

Lloyd Doggett

Janice Hahn