Name:

Address:

Email:

Tel.:

Date:

The Honorable [Elected Official Name]

[Address]

Re: Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2021 (H.R.1593/S.967)

Dear [Title] [Elected Official Name]:

Greetings! As a constituent in your district, I am writing to urge you to support Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2021 (H.R.1593/S.967), which will provide for the automatic acquisition of citizenship for certain individuals adopted by a U.S. citizen.

The United States adopts more children overseas than any other nation in the world. However, many adoptees are not eligible for naturalization despite living in the U.S. since childhood. According to the South Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare, between 1955 and 2015, 112,000 Korean children were adopted by U.S. citizens. Out of the 112,000 Korean children adopted, approximately 20,000 adoptees lack any records of U.S. citizenship.

Due to loopholes in public policy, countless families live under the threat of abrupt separation and deportation. In 2012, a 37-year-old man named Phillip Clay was deported to his birth country after having lived in the United States since he was 8 years old. He had no knowledge of the country’s language or culture and a few months after his arrival, he took his own life. A similar situation occurred in 2016 with 41-year-old Adam Crasper. He was deported from his home state, leaving behind a wife, three daughters, and the only country he has ever known. As of 2016, 10 Korean adoptees have been deported from the U.S. to South Korea.

In the 117th Congress, Congressmember Adam Smith (D-WA) introduced H.R. 1593 – Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2021. Additionally, in the U.S. Senate, Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) introduced the same bill, S. 967.

The bill provides for an automatic acquisition of citizenship for certain individuals adopted by a U.S. citizen. An individual born outside the United States and residing in the United States shall automatically acquire citizenship if the individual (1) was adopted by a citizen before becoming 18 years old, (2) was physically present in the United States in the citizen parent's custody pursuant to lawful admission before becoming 18 years old, (3) never acquired citizenship before this bill's enactment, and (4) was lawfully residing in the United States on this bill's enactment date.

I would like to ask you to support Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2021 (H.R.1593/S.967) To address loopholes and give adoptees the opportunity for U.S. citizenship.

I thank you in advance for your support for this bill. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

[NAME]