

February 28, 2012

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Adoption Tax Credit Extension within Fiscal-Year 2013 Budget Proposal

Dear President Obama:

The undersigned organizations, which represent a very broad group of adoption organizations, write to express our appreciation for your commitment to adoptive families. Our organizations advocate for children and families who are touched by adoption and for the children who are still waiting for a permanent family.

We specifically thank you for your leadership to make the federal adoption tax credit permanent. We also strongly support your proposal to extend the adoption tax credit provisions of the Affordable Care Act that include making the credit refundable in 2012 and 2013.

As you know, the adoption tax credit can be a vital support to adoptive families to help make adoption more affordable or support children with special needs after an adoption. Whether families are adopting from foster care, internationally or privately, the support of the tax credit is significant to these parents.

Recently there has been widespread public confusion surrounding this credit due to the number of times the credit has been changed over the years. Continuing changes have created enormous uncertainty related to the credit—not only for parents seeking to access the credit, but also for professionals informing adoptive families about the credit's existence and tax preparers who assist families with their taxes. Making the tax credit permanent will help eliminate this confusion and ensure that families access the benefit they are due. Extending the refundable aspect of the credit will help ensure that all types of adoptive families are able to access this credit, especially families who have a low tax liability.

We are all working together to rally support for this proposal among members of Congress, and have several stories to draw upon to underline how the adoption tax credit helps children and families. We have worked extensively to inform parents about the existence of this credit and to inform the community of ongoing changes that Congress has enacted, and we look forward to being included in any discussions that affect the future of this credit.

We would like to thank you again for including the federal adoption tax credit in your Fiscal-Year 2013 budget proposal and for your continued leadership on behalf of adoptive families.

We look forward to highlighting your commitment to adoptive families among our members.

Sincerely,

Academy of California Adoption Lawyers
Academy of California Family Formation Lawyers
American Academy of Adoption Attorneys
California Alliance of Children and Family Services
Center for Adoption Support and Education
Center for Adoption Policy
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Action Network
Children's Home Society of North Carolina
Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute
Families for Private Adoption
Family Design Resources
Family and Youth Initiative
Gladney Center for Adoption
Holt International Children's Services
Joint Council on International Children's Services
Kinship Center, a member of Seneca Family of Agencies
Lilliput Children's Services
Mission Focused Solutions
National Adoption Center
National Council for Adoption
North American Council on Adoptable Children
North West Adoption Exchange
New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
Show Hope
Three Rivers Adoption Council
Voice for Adoption

CC:

Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Honorable Max Baucus
Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Honorable Dave Camp
Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Honorable Sander M. Levin
Chairman of the House Human Resources Subcommittee, Honorable Geoff Davis
Ranking Member of the House Human Resources Subcommittee, Honorable Lloyd Doggett