Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington D.C., 20520

The Honorable Dr. Rajiv Shah
Administrator Designate
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20523

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary Janet Napolitano
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Madam Secretaries and Master Administrator Designate:

As you are well aware, on the evening of January 18, 2010, the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that it would use its authority to extend humanitarian parole to those Haitian orphans with established adoptive relationships with U.S. adoptive families so that these orphans could travel immediately to the United States. We commend the Department of Homeland Security for making this policy decision and fully support your desire to protect the best interest of these most vulnerable children. What was and remains lacking two days after this announcement is the coordinated logistical plan needed to assure these orphans' immediate safety as well as efficient immigration processing and evacuation to the U.S.

We appreciate that a limited number of cases with access to private planes have been processed and evacuated from the country, but clearly not all adoptive families are in a position to put forward these resources to ensure the safe and swift travel of these orphans to the U.S. Furthermore, DOS and DHS are urging families to stay where they are. We are concerned that without clear direction American citizens will put themselves or the children they are seeking to adopt at risk by attempting an evacuation of their own.

Over the past four days, we, along with several other congressional offices have been urging State Department, USAID and Homeland Security officials to consider the consequences of making this announcement without a plan that ensured safe and efficient processing and travel for these children. Despite our best efforts, over 350 American

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families are now desperate and many are trying to independently evacuate their children. At the same time, orphanage directors, who are lacking basic supplies such as formula and water, as well as the information and support they need to protect the children in their care, are leaving the orphanages in search of help.

In our view, the chaos that has ensued is a direct result of a lack of logistical inter-agency coordination, a lack of communication to the public, and ad-hoc processing of travel documents by the U.S. Embassy. Therefore, we are writing to ask for your personal assurances that the State Department, in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Agency on International Development and the Department of Defense, puts in place a plan to directly ensure that ALL of the 600-700 orphans affected by Monday's announcement of humanitarian parole are safely and efficiently evacuated within the next ten days.

Senator Mary Landrieu

Senator James Inhofe

Senator Robert Casey

Senator John Ensign

Senator Mark Udall

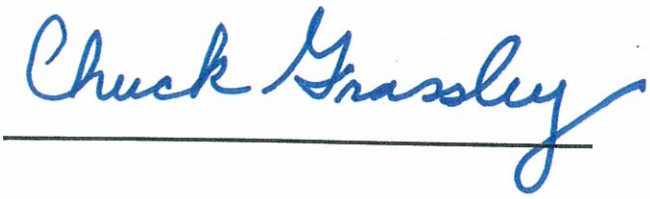
Senator John McCain

Senator Kit Bond

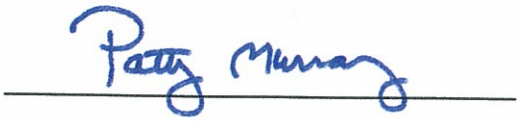
Representative Michele Bachmann

Representative Jim Cooper

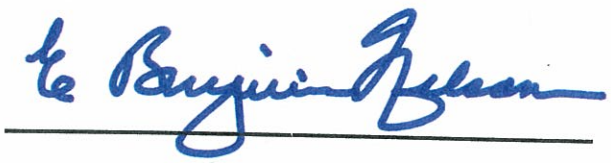
Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers



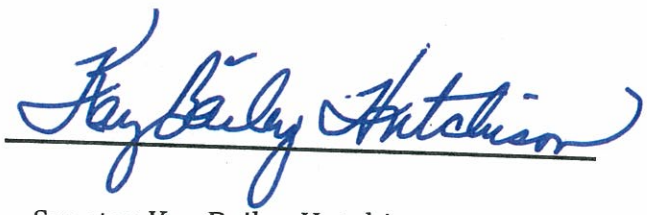
Senator Chuck Grassley



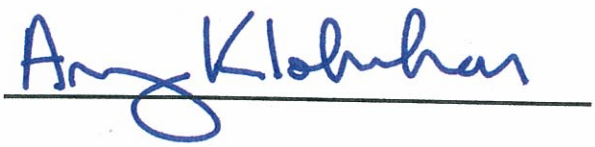
Senator Patty Murray



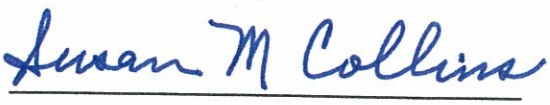
Senator Ben Nelson



Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

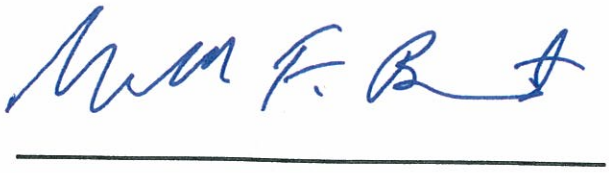


Senator Amy Klobuchar



Senator Susan Collins

Senator Frank Lautenberg

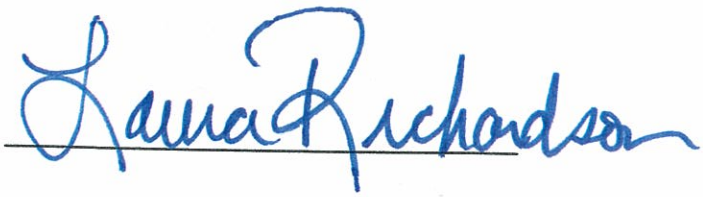


Senator Michael Bennet

Representative Glenn Thompson

Representative Bill Foster

Representative John Olver

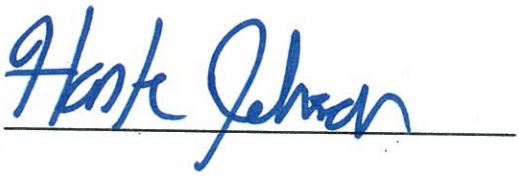


Representative Laura Richardson

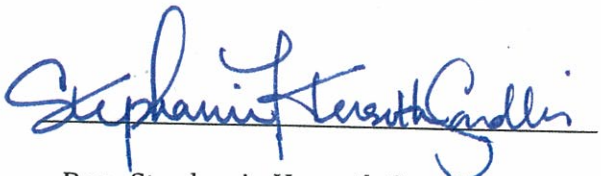
Representative Charles Dent

Representative Martin Heinrich

Representative Bart Gordon



Representative Henry Johnson, Jr.

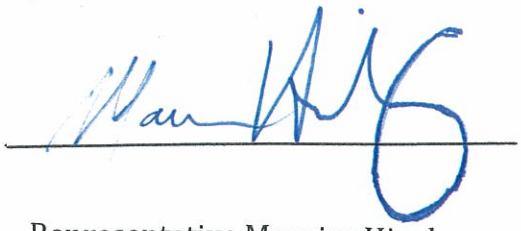


Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

Representative Chris Smith

Representative Dave Camp

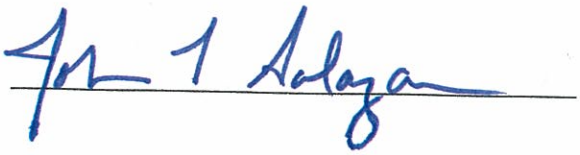
Representative Jim Jordan



Representative Maurice Hinchey

Representative Donald Manzullo

Representative Jerry Moran

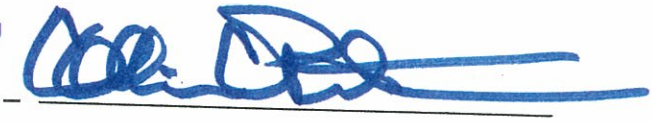


Representative John Salazar

Representative Rodney Alexander

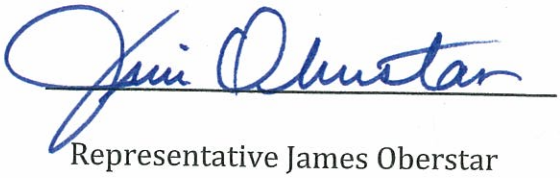
Representative Bruce Braley

Representative Leonard Boswell



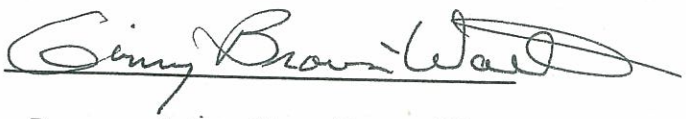
Representative Collin Peterson

Representative Deborah Halvorson

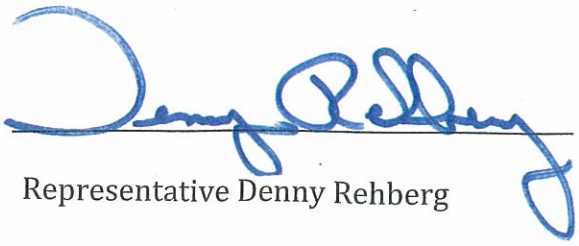


Representative James Oberstar

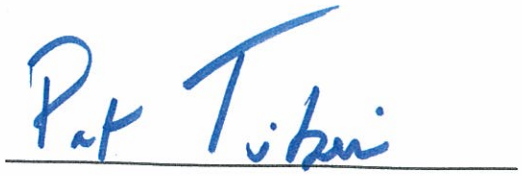
Representative Todd Tiahrt



Representative Ginny Brown-Waite



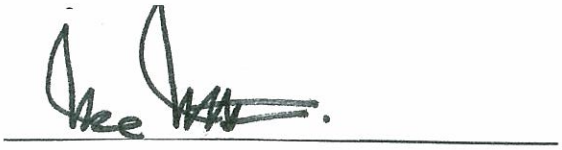
Representative Denny Rehberg



Representative Patrick Tiberi

Representative Adrian Smith

Representative Doug Lamborn



Representative Ike Skelton

Representative Lynn Jenkins

Representative Peter Roskam

Representative Betsy Markey