

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear President Biden and Secretary Blinken,

Vladimir Putin has continued to violently attack Ukraine and its people. This illegal, unprovoked, and immoral invasion is causing a humanitarian crisis within Ukraine— Russian forces are reportedly attacking civilian targets including schools, hospitals, and private homes with no regard for the safety of innocent civilians. Currently, over one million Ukrainians have fled their country and millions more have been internally displaced. Among them are hundreds of vulnerable orphans at different stages of the adoption process.

While we thank the Administration for their continued engagement on this important issue, we write today asking the Administration to do everything it can to provide for the safety and security of these children. Specifically, we should allow those families who are in the midst of the adoption process and have previously hosted a Ukrainian orphan to host that child again. These families have already demonstrated that they can provide safe loving homes for these children. During this crisis, the best place for these orphans is with these caring families.

To that end, we urge you to:

1. Grant these orphans new six-month (B-1/B-2) visas to return to the United States to stay with their host families.
2. Establish a liaison to work closely with these families to find appropriate visa options for the children.
3. Work closely with existing Ukrainian authorities to ensure the requisite travel authorizations are granted. This coordination can be done through the Office of Children's Issues which already has working relationships with adoption service providers and the relevant Ukrainian authorities.

4. Continue to work with Ukrainian authorities to find ways to expedite the international adoption process without compromising critical safety measures, including protections that combat human trafficking.

We believe these proposals are actionable because much of the necessary structures are already in place. There are existing records for these children from their original visa application, which will help identify which orphans would be eligible. Additionally, the families in question had to be vetted to participate in the hosting program so there are already records of their approval. As such, we urge the Administration to move quickly to implement these proposals.

Thank you for your close attention to this important matter and we look forward to an expeditious response.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

/s/
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
David Trone
Member of Congress

/s/
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

/s/
Val B. Demings
Member of Congress

/s/
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

/s/
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

/s/
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

/s/
Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

/s/
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

/s/
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

/s/
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

/s/
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

/s/
Elaine Luria
Member of Congress

/s/
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/
Young Kim
Member of Congress

/s/
Albio B. Sires
Member of Congress