

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6985

To establish an Intercountry Adoption Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

Mr. CURTIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish an Intercountry Adoption Advisory Committee,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Intercountry Adoption
5 Advisory Committee Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State may
8 establish within the Bureau of Consular Affairs an inter-
9 country adoption advisory committee (the “Advisory Com-
10 mittee”).

1 (b) DUTIES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Advisory Committee is
3 established under subsection (a), the Secretary of
4 State shall consult the Advisory Committee, as ap-
5 propriate, on intercountry adoption, including on the
6 development, refinement, and implementation of
7 policies and programs pertaining to intercountry
8 adoption.

9 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Advisory Com-
10 mittee shall develop, at the request of the Secretary,
11 recommendations for improvements to intercountry
12 adoption.

13 (3) PERIODIC REPORTS.—The Advisory Com-
14 mittee shall periodically submit to the Secretary of
15 State—

16 (A) reports on matters identified by the
17 Secretary; and

18 (B) reports on other matters identified by
19 a majority of the members of the Advisory
20 Committee.

21 (4) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Advisory Com-
22 mittee shall submit to the Secretary of State an an-
23 nual report providing information on the activities,
24 findings, and recommendations of the Advisory Com-
25 mittee for the preceding year. Not later than 180

1 days after the date that the Secretary receives the
2 annual report, the Secretary shall publish a public
3 version describing the Advisory Committee's activi-
4 ties and such related matters as would be inform-
5 ative to the public consistent with the policy of sec-
6 tion 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.

7 (5) FEEDBACK.—Not later than 90 days after
8 receiving recommendations transmitted by the Advi-
9 sory Committee under paragraph (4), the Secretary
10 of State shall respond in writing to the Advisory
11 Committee with feedback on each of the rec-
12 ommendations, an action plan to implement any of
13 the recommendations with which the Secretary con-
14 curs, and a justification for why any of the rec-
15 ommendations have been rejected.

16 (6) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later
17 than 30 days after providing written feedback to the
18 Advisory Committee under paragraph (5), the Sec-
19 retary of State shall notify Congress of the feedback.

20 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—Not later than 180 days after es-
21 tablishing the Advisory Committee under subsection (a),
22 the Secretary of State shall appoint the members of the
23 Advisory Committee. The members so appointed shall in-
24 clude groups representing adoption service providers,
25 adoptive families, adoptees, adoption attorneys, social

- 1 workers, and representatives of U.S. Citizen and Immigra-
- 2 tion Services (USCIS) and the Department of State.

