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and appreciation with which it was written. Although it is tempting to continue to wordsmith this document, we ask at this point that you accept our document with an understanding that many eyes have already reviewed it and offered changes and improvements.

Our letter was delivered to the CCAA in Beijing on or about May 3, 2007, in English and Chinese translations. The Open Letter was signed by the presidents of the four largest FCC chapters, representing approximately 4700 families with 7200 children. We have now also invited other FCC chapters to become additional signatories to this letter, and we plan to re-send it with a revised page of signatures as other chapters choose to join us in this effort.

We hope our letter will strengthen bridges within the FCC community, and we hope that it will strengthen the bridge to China. Struggling with deeply felt issues, sharing opinions respectfully, doing our best to stand up for children, all of which we hope this letter represents, are things that our adoptive families community does especially well.

We welcome your thoughts and appreciate your trust in our effort to speak for the large community of China adoptive families across the United States.

Sincerely,

Shanti Fry, President, FCC New England
 Peggy Lee Scott, President, FCC Northern California
 David Youtz, President, FCC Greater New York
 Jeri Okamoto Floyd, President, FCC Southern California

Ed.: The 5/07 amended regulations can be found on www.fccncalif.org.

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will prevent many individuals who would be excellent parents from adopting. We note this with enormous sadness and loss. For example, under the proposed regulations, 70% or more of the members of the Boards of Directors of FCC-Northern California and FCC-New England would not be eligible to adopt today. We believe that these two boards of directors are reflective of other FCC boards. They are comprised of the people who take leadership positions to provide support for the children in their communities. These leaders bring children into language and culture programs and connect Chinese adoptees with each other and with the larger Chinese American community. The new rules will significantly alter the profile of this highly supportive parent community.

Perhaps the largest potential group that will be excluded under the new regulations are single parent applicants. Within our FCC membership, single parents have shown exceptional devotion to their children. Many single mothers and fathers not only parent successfully, but have also served in leadership positions within FCC for many years, promoting Chinese culture and helping to raise funds to support Chinese orphanages. Moreover, their children teach us – by their example – that parenting is not so much about having two parents as it is about love and support, encouragement and dedication. Our single parents have shown that they have an abundance of these attributes. We have included several articles written about single parent families which illustrate how successfully these families are raising their children.

Second, there are many families who have had the privilege of adopting a child or children from China who wish to adopt another brother or sister, but would become ineligible under the new regulations. Those of us who have had the opportunity to adopt more than one child from China understand the deep relationship and positive family dynamic that comes from having a brother or sister who was also born in China and adopted. These are experienced families who typically are already highly involved and invested in the culture of China and in the Chinese community. It is our hope that the China adoption authorities will take this special situation into consideration and perhaps provide certain exceptions for qualified families who have previously adopted from China.

Third, we are concerned about the effect that the proposed exclusions may have on children whose parents would be ineligible if those parents applied under the proposed eligibility requirements. As one single mother said when talking about this proposed change, “My daughter has such a glowing view of China after our trip this summer. How can I tell her that the Chinese government no longer thinks that I would be a good parent? It’s just too confusing for her.” We ask the Chinese adoption authorities to consider how these proposed restrictions will affect not only our children, but the orphans who still wait to be adopted.

Lastly, we applaud and support China’s current rigorous standards for adoption and the requirements that are already in place requiring an extensive home study evaluation by a licensed, accredited social worker working with an approved agency. Those professionals take into consideration the physical and mental health, financial well-being and stability of the family unit, putting the best interests of the child at the forefront. Single applicants and married couples who are not deemed qualified are not approved. We respectfully submit that the many checks already in place safeguard the future well-being of the child.

Conclusion

It is from our hearts that we write to you today. As devoted friends of China’s adoption program, we agree that placing all eligible children in good homes through domestic or international adoption is the highest priority. Our FCC community offers any assistance or collaboration that would help to achieve this for the children. It is our sincere hope that in the future these new proposed restrictions might be eased to include the groups that may be eliminated as of May 1, 2007, and that the program may remain as inclusive as possible.

We believe adoption by international parents of children born in China has been a true example of mutual cooperation, bringing joy and pragmatic benefit to both parents in need of children and children in need of family. We look forward to the continuation of this deeply important and successful two-way relationship and we appreciate your willingness to consider the views of our community.

- Shanti Fry, President, FCC-New England
Member families: 1,000; Children: 1,560
- Jeri Okamoto Floyd, President, FCC-Southern California
Member families: 600; Children: 825
- Peggy Scott, President, FCC-Northern California
Member families: 677, Children: 997
- David Youtz, President, FCC Greater New York
Member families: 2400; Children: 3800