### 113TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

# H. R. 4143

To realign structures and reallocate resources in the Federal Government, in keeping with the core American belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society, to bolster United States diplomacy and assistance targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to strengthen intercountry adoption to the United States and around the world and ensure that it becomes a viable and fully developed option for providing families for children in need, and for other purposes.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 4, 2014

Ms. Granger (for herself, Ms. Bass, Mrs. Bachmann, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Franks of Arizona, Mr. Olson, Mr. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Wolf, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Huizenga of Michigan, Mr. Carson of Indiana, Mr. Conaway, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Takano, Mr. Bishop of New York, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Braley of Iowa, Mr. Doggett, Mrs. Capito, Mrs. Brooks of Indiana, Mr. Israel, Mr. Rokita, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Jackson Lee, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Nunnelee, Ms. Kuster, Mr. Forbes, and Mr. Murphy of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

### A BILL

To realign structures and reallocate resources in the Federal Government, in keeping with the core American belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society, to bolster United States diplomacy and assistance targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to strengthen intercountry adoption to the United States and around the world and ensure that it becomes a viable and fully developed option for providing families for children in need, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 "Children in Families First Act of 2014".
- 6 (b) Table of Contents for
- 7 this Act is as follows:
  - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
  - Sec. 2. Findings; purposes.
  - Sec. 3. Definitions.

### TITLE I—REALIGNMENT OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL CHILD WELFARE RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

- Sec. 101. Establishment of Bureau of Vulnerable Children and Family Security in the Department of State.
- Sec. 102. Responsibilities of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for accreditation of adoption service providers.
- Sec. 103. Transfer of functions and savings provisions.
- Sec. 104. Responsibilities of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for adoption-related case processing.

#### TITLE II—ANNUAL REPORTING

- Sec. 201. Annual report on children living without families.
- Sec. 202. Country reports regarding severe forms of trafficking.

## TITLE III—PROMOTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOR CHILDREN IN ADVERSITY

Sec. 301. Establishment of a USAID Center for Excellence for Children in Adversity.

#### TITLE IV—FUNDING AND EFFECTIVE DATES

Sec. 401. Funding.

Sec. 402. Effective dates.

### 1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

- 2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-3 ings:
- 4 (1) The people of the United States recognize 5 and believe that children must grow up in perma-6 nent, safe, and nurturing families in order to develop 7 and thrive.
  - (2) Science now proves conclusively that children suffer immediate, lasting, and in many cases irreversible damage from time spent living in institutions or outside of families, including reduced brain activity, reduced IQ, smaller brain size, and inability to form emotional bonds with others.
  - (3) Governments in other countries seek models that promote the placement of children who are living outside family care in permanent, safe, and nurturing families, rather than in foster care or institutions, but many governments lack the resources or infrastructure to adequately address this need.
  - (4) Despite the good efforts of countless governments and nongovernmental organizations, millions of children remain uncounted and outside of the protection, nurturing care, permanence, safety, and love of a family. Without the care of a family, these children are forced to live on the streets, in in-

- stitutions, in paid foster care, in child-headed households, in group homes, or as household servants.
  - (5) No reliable data currently exists to define and document the number and needs of children in the world currently living without families, but available evidence demonstrates that there are millions of children in this situation needing immediate help.
  - (6) The December 2012 Action Plan for Children in Adversity commits the United States Government to achieving a world in which all children grow up within protective family care and free from deprivation, exploitation, and danger. To effectively and efficiently accomplish this goal, it is necessary to realign the United States Government's current operational system for assisting orphans and vulnerable children, and processing intercountry adoptions.
  - (7) All options for providing appropriate, protective, and permanent family care to children living without families must be considered concurrently and permanent solutions must be put in place as quickly as possible. Solutions include family preservation and reunification, kinship care, guardianship, domestic and intercountry adoption, and other culturally acceptable forms of care that will result in appropriate, protective, and permanent family care.

Preference should be given to options that optimize child best interests, which generally means options which provide children with fully protected legal status and parents with full legal status as parents, including full parental rights and responsibilities. The principle of subsidiarity, which gives preference to in-country solutions, should be implemented within the context of a concurrent planning strategy, exploring in- and out-of-country options simultaneously. If an in-country placement serving the child's best interest and providing appropriate, protective, and permanent care is not quickly available, and such an international home is available, the child should be placed in that international home without delay.

- (8) Significant resources are already dedicated to international assistance for orphans and vulnerable children, and a relatively small portion of these resources can be reallocated to achieve more timely, effective, nurturing, and permanent familial solutions for children living without families, resulting in fewer children worldwide living in institutions or on the streets, more families preserved or reunified, and increased domestic and international adoptions.
- (b) Purposes.—The purposes of this Act are—

- 1 (1) to support the core American value that 2 families are the bedrock of any society;
  - (2) to protect the fundamental human right of all children to grow up within the loving care of permanent, safe, and nurturing families;
    - (3) to address a critical gap in United States foreign policy implementation by adjusting the Federal Government's international policy and operational structures so that seeking permanent families for children living without families receives more prominence, focus, and resources (through the reallocation of existing personnel and resources);
    - (4) to harness the diplomatic and operational power of the United States Government in the international sphere by helping to identify and implement timely, permanent, safe, and nurturing familial solutions for children living without families, including refugee or stateless children;
    - (5) to ensure that intercountry adoption by United States citizens becomes a viable and fully developed option for creating permanent families for children who need them;
  - (6) to protect against abuses of children, birth families, and adoptive parents involved in inter-

1	country adoptions, and to ensure that such adop-
2	tions are in the individual child's best interests; and
3	(7) to harmonize and strengthen existing inter-
4	country adoption processes under United States
5	law—
6	(A) by ensuring that the same set of proce-
7	dures and criteria govern suitability and eligi-
8	bility determinations for prospective adoptive
9	parents seeking to complete intercountry adop-
10	tions, whether or not the child is from a foreign
11	state that is a party to the Hague Adoption
12	Convention; and
13	(B) by aligning the definitions of eligible
14	child for Convention adoptions and non-Conven-
15	tion adoptions to the maximum extent possible.
16	SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.
17	In this Act:
18	(1) ACTION PLAN FOR CHILDREN IN ADVER-
19	SITY.—The term "Action Plan for Children in Ad-
20	versity" means the policy document entitled "United
21	States Government Action Plan on Children in Ad-
22	versity: A Framework for International Assistance:
23	2012–2017", released on December 19, 2012.
24	(2) Appropriate, protective, and perma-
25	NENT FAMILY CARE.—The term "appropriate, pro-

1	tective, and permanent family care" means a nur-
2	turing, lifelong, commitment to a child by an adult,
3	or adults with parental roles and responsibilities
4	that—
5	(A) provides physical and emotional sup-
6	port;
7	(B) provides the child with a sense of be-
8	longing; and
9	(C) generally involves full legal recognition
10	of the child's status as child of the parents and
11	of the parents' rights and responsibilities re-
12	garding the child.
13	(3) Central authority.—The term "central
14	authority" has the meaning given the term in sec-
15	tion 3 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42
16	U.S.C. 14902).
17	(4) CHILDREN IN ADVERSITY.—The term "chil-
18	dren in adversity" means children living inside or
19	outside of family care who are deprived, excluded,
20	vulnerable, or at risk for violence, abuse, exploi-
21	tation, or neglect.
22	(5) Convention adoption.—The term "Con-
23	vention adoption" has the meaning given the term in
24	section 3 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000

(42 U.S.C. 14902).

- 1 (6) CONVENTION COUNTRY.—The term "Convention country" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14902) and for which the Hague Adoption Convention has entered into force.
  - (7) Guardianship.—The term "guardianship" means a permanent legal relationship between an adult and a child, whereby the adult is lawfully invested with the power, and charged with the duty, of taking care of the child. While some forms of guardianship are not truly permanent, the form of guardianship referred to and supported under this Act is permanent guardianship. A Kefala order issued by a country that follows traditional Islamic law does not qualify as an adoption under United States law, but may be a form of guardianship in some circumstances.
  - (8) Habitual residence determination.—
    The term "habitual residence determination" means a factual determination of where a prospective adoptive parent (or parents) resides and where the child resides for purposes of an intercountry adoption case.
  - (9) Hague Adoption Convention.—The term "Hague Adoption Convention" means the Conven-

- tion of Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, concluded at The Hague May 29, 1993. (10) Kinship care.—The term "kinship care"
  - means the full time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, godparents, stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child, so long as those persons have the capacity and commitment to function as true parents for the child on a permanent basis. It does not include paid kinship foster care.
  - (11) Non-convention adoption.—The term "non-Convention adoption" means—
    - (A) an adoption by United States parents of a child from a non-Convention country in accordance with subparagraph (F) of section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1));
    - (B) an adoption by United States parents of a child under the laws of the child's country of origin (generally when the parents are living in the child's country of origin and therefore able legally to complete a domestic adoption); or
    - (C) in certain circumstances (generally with respect to relative adoptions or adoptions

- by dual national parents), an adoption by
  United States parents of a child from a Convention country if that country allows legal and
  valid adoptions to take place outside the scope
  of the Convention.
  - (12) Non-convention country.—The term "non-Convention country" means a country in which the Hague Adoption Convention has not entered into force, regardless of whether or not that country has signed the Convention.
  - (13) Unparented children" means children lacking the legal, permanent, safe, and nurturing care of a parental figure or figures, either inside their country of origin, in the country of their habitual residence, or elsewhere, regardless of their lawful or unlawful immigration status in their current country of residence.
  - (14) VULNERABLE CHILDREN.—The term "vulnerable children", consistent with the United States Agency for International Development's definition, means children and youth who are under 18 years whose safety, well-being, growth, and development are at significant risk due to inadequate care, protection, or access to essential services.

1	TITLE I—REALIGNMENT OF CER-
2	TAIN INTERNATIONAL CHILD
3	WELFARE RESPONSIBILITIES
4	AND FUNCTIONS
5	SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF BUREAU OF VULNERABLE
6	CHILDREN AND FAMILY SECURITY IN THE
7	DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
8	(a) Establishment.—There is established within
9	the Department of State the Bureau of Vulnerable Chil-
10	dren and Family Security (referred to in this Act as the
11	"VCFS"), which shall be located in the Secretariat for Ci-
12	vilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights and shall
13	promote and support the following activities:
14	(1) The development and implementation in for-
15	eign countries of child welfare laws, regulations,
16	policies, best practices, and procedures in keeping
17	with the goals articulated in the Action Plan for
18	Children in Adversity, including—
19	(A) the sound development of children
20	through the integration of health, nutrition, and
21	family support;
22	(B) supporting and enabling families to
23	care for children through family preservation,
24	reunification and support of kinshin care

1	guardianship, and domestic and intercountry
2	adoption; and
3	(C) facilitating the efforts of national gov-
4	ernments and partners to prevent, respond to
5	and protect children from violence, exploitation
6	abuse, and neglect.
7	(2) Addressing the gap in United States Gov-
8	ernment diplomacy, policy, and operations with re-
9	spect to promoting appropriate, protective, and per-
10	manent family care for children living without fami-
11	lies by establishing within the VCFS a Senior Coor-
12	dinator for Permanence, who—
13	(A) shall occupy at least a Deputy Assist-
14	ant Secretary-level position in the VCFS; and
15	(B) shall lead the development and imple-
16	mentation of policies that will ensure the timely
17	provision of appropriate, protective, and perma-
18	nent family care for children living without
19	families, including refugee and stateless chil-
20	dren, through the full continuum of permanence
21	solutions, including family preservation and re-
22	unification, kinship care, guardianship, and do-
23	mestic and intercountry adoption.
24	(b) Aggigmanm Chodhemady

1	(1) APPOINTMENT.—The VCFS shall be headed
2	by an Assistant Secretary, who shall be appointed by
3	the President by and with the consent of the Senate.
4	(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Secretary
5	shall—
6	(A) have experience in the development of
7	policies and systems and the implementation of
8	programs that promote the goals of the Action
9	Plan for Children in Adversity;
10	(B) be knowledgeable of international child
11	welfare, family permanence, and family creation
12	through domestic and intercountry adoption;
13	and
14	(C) be committed to developing an inte-
15	grated United States Government approach to
16	international child welfare that places equal em-
17	phasis on—
18	(i) early childhood survival and devel-
19	opment;
20	(ii) family permanence; and
21	(iii) protection from abuse and exploi-
22	tation.
23	(3) Authority.—The Assistant Secretary shall
24	report to the Under Secretary for Civilian Security,
25	Democracy and Human Rights.

1	(4) Increase in authorized assistant sec-
2	RETARY POSITIONS.—
3	(A) AMENDMENT TO STATE DEPARTMENT
4	BASIC AUTHORITIES ACT OF 1956.—Section
5	1(c)(1) of the State Department Basic Authori-
6	ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)(1)) is
7	amended by striking "not more than 24 Assist-
8	ant Secretaries" and inserting "not more than
9	25 Assistant Secretaries".
10	(B) Amendment to title 5, united
11	STATES CODE.—Section 5315 of title 5, United
12	States Code, is amended by striking "Assistant
13	Secretaries of State (24)" and inserting "As-
14	sistant Secretaries of State (25)".
15	(c) Functions.—
16	(1) Advisory.—The Assistant Secretary shall
17	serve as a primary advisor to the Secretary of State
18	and the President in all matters related to vulner-
19	able children and family security in foreign coun-
20	tries.
21	(2) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject to
22	the direction of the President and the Secretary of
23	State, and in consultation and coordination with the
24	Senior Coordinator for Children in Adversity of the
25	United States Agency for International Develop-

1	ment, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
2	Assistant Secretary shall represent the United
3	States in matters relevant to international child wel-
4	fare, family preservation and reunification, and pro-
5	vision of permanent, safe parental care through kin-
6	ship, domestic and intercountry adoption in—
7	(A) contacts with foreign governments,
8	nongovernmental organizations, intergovern-
9	mental agencies, and specialized agencies of the
10	United Nations and other international organi-
11	zations of which the United States is a member;
12	(B) multilateral conferences and meetings
13	relevant to family preservation, reunification,
14	and creating appropriate, protective, and per-
15	manent care for unparented children; and
16	(C) fulfillment of the diplomatic respon-
17	sibilities designated to the central authority
18	under title I of the Intercountry Adoption Act
19	of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14911 et seq.), as amended
20	by this Act.
21	(3) Policy development with respect to
22	PERMANENCE FOR UNPARENTED CHILDREN.—
23	(A) In General.—The Assistant Sec-
24	retary shall—

1	(i) develop and advocate for policies
2	and practices to ensure that children in
3	foreign countries who are living without
4	families find appropriate, protective, and
5	permanent family care which is in the best
6	interest of each child;
7	(ii) give consideration to family pres-
8	ervation and reunification, kinship care,
9	guardianship, and domestic and inter-
10	country adoption; and
11	(iii) seek to develop and implement
12	policies that lead to the use of all options
13	for providing appropriate, protective, and
14	permanent family care to children living
15	without families as quickly as possible.
16	(B) Best interest determination.—In
17	carrying out subparagraph (A), the Assistant
18	Secretary shall give preference to options that
19	optimize the best interests of children, including
20	options which provide children with fully pro-
21	tected legal status as children and parents with
22	full legal status as parents, including full paren-
23	tal rights and responsibilities.
24	(C) Subsidiarity.—The principle of
25	subsidiarity, which gives preference to in-coun-

try solutions, should be implemented within the context of a concurrent planning strategy, exploring in- and out-of-country options simultaneously. If an in-country placement serving the child's best interests and providing appropriate, protective, and permanent care is not quickly available, and such an international home is available, the child should be placed in that international home without delay.

- (D) BEST PRACTICES.—In developing policies and programs under this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall identify and utilize evidence-based programs and best practices in family preservation and reunification and provision of permanent parental care through guardianship, kinship care, and domestic and intercountry adoption as derived from a wide variety of domestic, foreign, and global policies and practices.
- (E) Technical assistance.—The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall provide technical assistance to governments of foreign countries to help build their child welfare capacities and to strengthen appropriate family preservation

1	and reunification and the provision of appro-
2	priate, protective, and permanent family care
3	through kinship care, guardianship, and domes-
4	tic and intercountry adoption, including assist-
5	ance with—
6	(i) the drafting, disseminating, and
7	implementing of legislation;
8	(ii) the development of implementing
9	systems and procedures;
10	(iii) the establishment of public, pri-
11	vate, and faith- and community-based
12	partnerships;
13	(iv) the development of workforce
14	training for governmental and nongovern-
15	mental staff; and
16	(v) infrastructure development and
17	data collection techniques necessary to
18	identify and document the number and
19	needs of children living without appro-
20	priate, protective, and permanent family
21	care.
22	(4) Responsibilities with respect to
23	INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION.—
24	(A) IN GENERAL.—The VCFS, in coordi-
25	nation with other offices of the Department of

- State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, shall have lead responsibility for representing the United States Government in discussions, negotiations, and diplomatic contacts pertaining to intercountry adoptions.
  - (B) CENTRAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 2000.—Section 101(b)(2) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14911(b)(2)) is amended by striking "Office of Children's Issues" and inserting "Bureau of Vulnerable Children and Family Security".
  - (C) Determinations of hague adoption convention compliance.—The VCFS, in consultation with other offices of the Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security, shall have lead responsibility for determining whether a Convention partner country has met its obligations under the Hague Adoption Convention and is eligible to participate in intercountry adoptions in accordance with United States law. Such determinations shall be documented in writing, based on standardized criteria, and available for public review and comment.

1	(D) NEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL AGREE-
2	MENTS.—The VCFS, in consultation with the
3	Secretary of Homeland Security, shall have lead
4	responsibility for the negotiation of bilateral
5	agreements with other countries pertaining to
6	intercountry adoption and in conformity with
7	the provisions of the Hague Adoption Conven-
8	tion when the other country is a Convention
9	partner.
10	(5) Policy coordination.—The Assistant
11	Secretary shall coordinate with the Secretary of
12	Homeland Security and the Administrator of the
13	United States Agency for International Development
14	to maintain consistency in United States foreign and
15	domestic policy and operations with respect to chil-
16	dren living outside family care in foreign countries,
17	particularly those living without families.
18	(6) Information coordination.—The Assist-
19	ant Secretary shall transmit—
20	(A) any intercountry adoption related case
21	information received from the Central Authority
22	of another Convention country to the Secretary
23	of Homeland Security; and

(B) any intercountry adoption related case

information that the Secretary of Homeland Se-

24

1	curity requests to the Central Authority of an-
2	other Convention country.
3	SEC. 102. RESPONSIBILITIES OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IM-
4	MIGRATION SERVICES FOR ACCREDITATION
5	OF ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS.
6	(a) General Responsibilities Under the
7	Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000.—
8	(1) IN GENERAL.—The Intercountry Adoption
9	Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–279; 114 Stat. 825)
10	is amended by inserting after section 103 (42 U.S.C.
11	14913) the following:
12	"SEC. 103A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
13	HOMELAND SECURITY.
	HOMELAND SECURITY.  "(a) Accreditation and Approval Responsibil-
13 14 15	
14 15	"(a) Accreditation and Approval Responsibil-
14 15 16	"(a) Accreditation and Approval Responsibilities.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, working through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
14 15 16 17	"(a) Accreditation and Approval Responsibilities.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, working through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
14 15 16 17	"(a) Accreditation and Approval Responsibil- Ities.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, working through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, shall carry out the functions prescribed by the
14 15 16 17 18	"(a) Accreditation and Approval Responsibilities.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, working through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, shall carry out the functions prescribed by the Convention with respect to the accreditation of agencies and the approval of persons to provide adoption services
14 15 16 17	"(a) Accreditation and Approval Responsibilities.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, working through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, shall carry out the functions prescribed by the Convention with respect to the accreditation of agencies and the approval of persons to provide adoption services
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	"(a) Accreditation and Approval Responsibilities.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, working through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, shall carry out the functions prescribed by the Convention with respect to the accreditation of agencies and the approval of persons to provide adoption services in the United States in cases subject to the Convention
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	"(a) Accreditation and Approval Responsibilities.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, working through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, shall carry out the functions prescribed by the Convention with respect to the accreditation of agencies and the approval of persons to provide adoption services in the United States in cases subject to the Convention as provided in title II. Such functions may not be dele-

1	investigations related to the operation and services of
2	adoption service providers, whether directly or indirectly.
3	"(c) Liaison With Foreign Governments on
4	POST-PLACEMENT REPORTS AND CERTAIN ADOPTION
5	Cases.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall serve
6	as the liaison with foreign governments with respect to
7	queries about required post-placement reports and about
8	specific intercountry adoption cases once the adopted chil-
9	dren are living in the United States, including queries
10	about the status of adopted children who are living in the
11	United States in cases involving allegations of abuse, ne-
12	glect, abandonment, or death.".
13	(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1 of such
14	Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
15	to section 103 the following:
	"Sec. 103A. Responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security.".
16	(3) Conforming amendments.—Section 102
17	of such Act (42 U.S.C. 14912) is amended—
18	(A) in subsection (a), by striking "The
19	Secretary" and inserting "Except as provided
20	for under section 103A, the Secretary';
21	(B) in subsection (b), by inserting ", in co-
22	ordination with the Secretary of Homeland Se-
23	curity," after "The Secretary";
24	(C) by striking subsection (c);

1	(D) by redesignating subsections (d) and
2	(f) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and
3	(E) by striking subsection (e).
4	(b) Accreditation Responsibilities Under the
5	Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000.—
6	(1) Designation of accrediting agen-
7	CIES.—Section 202 of the Intercountry Adoption Act
8	of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14922) is amended by inserting
9	"of Homeland Security" after "Secretary" each
10	place it appears.
11	(2) Standards and procedures for pro-
12	VIDING ACCREDITATION OR APPROVAL.—Section 203
13	of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C.
14	14923) is amended by inserting "of Homeland Secu-
15	rity" after "Secretary" each place it appears in sub-
16	sections (a) and (b).
17	(3) Oversight of accreditation and ap-
18	PROVAL.—Section 204 of the Intercountry Adoption
19	Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14924) is amended—
20	(A) by inserting "of Homeland Security"
21	after "Secretary" each place it appears; and
22	(B) in subsection (e)—
23	(i) in paragraph (1), by amending the
24	paragraph heading to read as follows:

1	"(4) Authority of the secretary of
2	HOMELAND SECURITY.—"; and
3	(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking
4	"Secretary's debarment order" and insert-
5	ing "debarment order of the Secretary of
6	Homeland Security".
7	(4) Administrative provisions.—
8	(A) Access to convention records.—
9	Section 401(b) of the Intercountry Adoption
10	Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14941(b)) is amend-
11	$\operatorname{ed}$ —
12	(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting ",
13	the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immi-
14	gration Services," after "Secretary"; and
15	(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting
16	"the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Im-
17	migration Services," after "Secretary,".
18	(B) Assessment of Fees.—Section
19	403(b) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of
20	2000 (42 U.S.C. 14943(b)) is amended—
21	(i) in paragraph (1)—
22	(I) by inserting "or the Director
23	of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
24	Services" after "Secretary"; and

1	(II) by inserting "or U.S. Citi-
2	zenship and Immigration Services, re-
3	spectively," after "Department of
4	State"; and
5	(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting "or
6	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
7	appropriation, as the case may be," after
8	"Department of State appropriation".
9	(c) Intercountry Adoption Functions of U.S.
10	CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES.—
11	(1) Definitions.—In this subsection and in
12	section 103:
13	(A) ADOPTION SERVICE.—The term
14	"adoption service" has the meaning given the
15	term in section 3 of the Intercountry Adoption
16	Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14902).
17	(B) Associate director.—The term
18	"Associate Director" means the Associate Di-
19	rector of the Directorate.
20	(C) Directorate.—Except as otherwise
21	provided in this subsection, the term "Direc-
22	torate" means the Field Operations Directorate
23	of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
24	(2) Intercountry adoption functions.—
25	The Associate Director shall carry out—

1	(A) the functions described in section
2	103A(a) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of
3	2000, relating to accreditation of agencies and
4	approval of persons to provide adoption serv-
5	ices;
6	(B) the functions described in section
7	103A(b) of such Act, relating to management
8	and oversight of investigations related to the
9	operation of such providers; and
10	(C) the functions described in section
11	103A(c) of such Act, relating to liaison respon-
12	sibilities regarding post-placement reports and
13	certain adoption cases.
14	(3) Informational responsibilities.—
15	(A) Database on adoption service
16	PROVIDERS.—
17	(i) In General.—The Associate Di-
18	rector shall establish and operate, in con-
19	junction with the Secretary of State, a
20	publicly accessible database of adoption
21	service providers.
22	(ii) AGREEMENT.—The Associate Di-
23	rector, the Director, and the Secretary of
24	State shall enter into an agreement under
25	which the Director and the Secretary shall

1	provide, for the database, data on inter-
2	country adoption cases relating to adoption
3	service providers.
4	(iii) Contents.—The database shall
5	include, with respect to each accredited
6	agency and approved person, who is an
7	adoption service provider individually, and
8	to the aggregate of all adoption service
9	providers—
10	(I) information identifying such a
11	provider;
12	(II) information on the accredita-
13	tion status of an agency, or the ap-
14	proval status of a person, as an adop-
15	tion service provider;
16	(III) information on the number
17	of applications or petitions filed re-
18	specting adoption and the numbers of
19	approvals and denials of the applica-
20	tions or petitions;
21	(IV) the number of substantiated
22	grievances filed with respect to an
23	adoption service provider; and
24	(V) a description of any sanc-
25	tions an adoption service provider, or

1	corrective actions that the provider is
2	required to take to maintain accredi-
3	tation or approval described in sub-
4	clause (II).
5	(B) Database on internationally
6	ADOPTED CHILDREN.—
7	(i) In General.—The Associate Di-
8	rector, in conjunction with the Secretary of
9	State, shall establish and operate a data-
10	base containing data respecting children
11	involved in intercountry adoption cases
12	who have immigrated to the United States.
13	(ii) Information tracking.—Al-
14	though the data available for adoptions fi-
15	nalized before the date of the enactment of
16	this Act will likely be incomplete, the Asso-
17	ciate Director should seek to import avail-
18	able data on all adoptions involving chil-
19	dren who are younger than 18 years of age
20	on the date of the enactment of this Act.
21	In operating the database established
22	under clause (i), the Associate Director
23	shall track information about each such
24	child before attaining United States citi-
25	zenship, including—

1	(I) information identifying a
2	child and the adoptive or prospective
3	adoptive parents, including—
4	(aa) the full name of the
5	child in the country of origin and
6	the full name of the child after
7	the adoption is finalized;
8	(bb) the gender, date of
9	birth, nationality, and citizenship
10	of the child;
11	(cc) the physical address of
12	the child at the time of the adop-
13	tion; the type of visa issued to
14	the child; and
15	(dd) the date on which the
16	child entered the United States;
17	(II) information on the particular
18	adoption service provider, if any, pro-
19	viding services in the particular case;
20	and
21	(III) information on immigration
22	or citizenship status of the child.
23	(iii) Interagency agreement.—
24	The Associate Director, the Director, and
25	the Secretary of State shall enter into an

1	agreement under which the Secretary of
2	State shall provide, for the database, data
3	on intercountry adoption cases concerning
4	the adopted children, and the adoption
5	service providers.
6	SEC. 103. TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS AND SAVINGS PROVI
7	SIONS.
8	(a) Definitions.—In this section, unless otherwise
9	provided or contextually indicated—
10	(1) the term "Federal agency" has the meaning
11	given to the term "agency" under section 551(1) of
12	title 5, United States Code;
13	(2) the term "function" means any duty, obli-
14	gation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privi-
15	lege, activity, or program; and
16	(3) the term "office" includes any office, ad-
17	ministration, agency, institute, unit, organizational
18	entity, or component thereof.
19	(b) Transfer of Functions.—There are trans-
20	ferred to the Directorate, all functions described in section
21	103A(a) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, as
22	added by section 102(a) of this Act, which were exercised
23	by the Secretary of State before the date of the enactment
24	of this Act (including all related functions of any officer

- 1 or employee of the Department of State), including func-
- 2 tions relating to—
- 3 (1) the accreditation of agencies and approval
- 4 of persons to provide adoption services;
- 5 (2) the management and oversight of investiga-6 tions related to the operation of such providers; and
- 7 (3) liaison responsibilities with respect to re-8 quired post-placement reports.
- 9 (c) Determinations of Certain Functions by
- 10 THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—If nec-
- 11 essary, the Director of the Office of Management and
- 12 Budget shall make any determination with respect to the
- 13 transfer of functions under subsection (b).
- 14 (d) Personnel Provisions.—
- 15 (1) APPOINTMENTS.—The Associate Director
- may appoint and fix the compensation of such offi-
- cers and employees, including investigators, attor-
- neys, and administrative law judges, as may be nec-
- essary to carry out the respective functions trans-
- ferred under this section. Except as otherwise pro-
- vided by law, such officers and employees shall be
- appointed in accordance with the civil service laws
- and their compensation fixed in accordance with title
- 5, United States Code.

1 (2) Experts and consultants.—The Asso-2 ciate Director may obtain the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 3 5, United States Code, and compensate such experts 5 and consultants for each day (including travel time) 6 at rates not in excess of the rate of pay for level IV 7 of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of 8 such title. The Associate Director may pay experts 9 and consultants who are serving away from their 10 homes or regular place of business travel expenses 11 and per diem in lieu of subsistence at rates author-12 ized by sections 5702 and 5703 of such title for per-13 sons in Government service employed intermittently.

14 (e) Delegation and Assignment.—Except where 15 otherwise expressly prohibited by law or otherwise pro-16 vided under this section—

### (1) the Associate Director may—

(A) delegate any of the functions transferred to the Associate Director under this section and any function transferred or granted to the Associate Director after the date of the enactment of this Act to such officers and employees of the Directorate as the Associate Director may designate; and

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1	(B) authorize successive redelegations of
2	such functions as may be necessary or appro-
3	priate; and
4	(2) no delegation of functions by the Associate
5	Director under this subsection or under any other
6	provision of this section shall relieve such Associate
7	Director of responsibility for the administration of
8	such functions.
9	(f) Reorganization.—The Associate Director is au-
10	thorized—
11	(1) to allocate or reallocate any function trans-
12	ferred under subsection (b) among the officers of the
13	Directorate; and
14	(2) to establish, consolidate, alter, or dis-
15	continue such organizational entities in the Direc-
16	torate as may be necessary or appropriate.
17	(g) Rules.—The Associate Director is authorized to
18	prescribe, in accordance with the provisions of chapters
19	5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, such rules and
20	regulations as the Associate Director determines necessary
21	or appropriate to administer and manage the functions of
22	the Directorate.
23	(h) Transfer and Allocations of Appropria-
24	TIONS AND PERSONNEL.—Except as otherwise provided
25	under this section and subject to section 1531 of title 31,

1	United States Code, the personnel employed in connection
2	with, and the assets, liabilities, contracts, property,
3	records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, au-
4	thorizations, allocations, and other funds employed, used,
5	held, arising from, available to, or to be made available
6	in connection with the functions transferred under sub-
7	section (b), shall be transferred to the Directorate. Unex-
8	pended funds transferred pursuant to this subsection may
9	only be used for the purposes for which the funds were
10	originally authorized and appropriated.
11	(i) Incidental Transfers.—The Director of the
12	Office of Management and Budget—
13	(1) may, at such time or times as the Director
14	may prescribe—
15	(A) make such determinations as may be
16	necessary with regard to the functions trans-
17	ferred under subsection (b); and
18	(B) make such additional incidental dis-
19	positions of personnel, assets, liabilities, grants,
20	contracts, property, records, and unexpended
21	balances of appropriations, authorizations, allo-
22	cations, and other funds held, used, arising
23	from, available to, or to be made available in
24	connection with such functions, as may be nec-

essary to carry out the provisions of this section; and

### (2) shall provide for—

- (A) the termination of the affairs of all entities terminated under this section; and
- (B) such further measures and dispositions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

### (j) Effect on Personnel.—

- (1) In General.—Except as otherwise provided under this section, the transfer under this section of full-time personnel (except special Government employees) and part-time personnel holding permanent positions shall not cause any such employee to be separated or reduced in grade or compensation during the 1-year period beginning on the date of such transfer.
- (2) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE POSITIONS.—Except as otherwise provided under this section, any person who, on the day preceding the date of the enactment of this Act, held a position compensated in accordance with the Executive Schedule prescribed in chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, and who, without a break in service, is appointed in the Directorate to a position having duties comparable to the

- duties performed immediately preceding such appointment shall continue to be compensated in such new position at not less than the rate provided for such previous position, for the duration of the service of such person in such new position.
  - (3) TERMINATION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS.—All positions whose functions are transferred under subsection (b) and whose incumbents have been appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall terminate on the date of the enactment of this Act.

## (k) Savings Provisions.—

- (1) Continuing effect of legal documents.—All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, agreements, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registrations, privileges, and other administrative actions which—
  - (A) have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the President, any Federal agency or official thereof, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in the performance of functions which are transferred under this section; and
- (B) are in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, or were final before such date

of enactment and are to become effective on or after the date of the enactment of this Act,

shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by the President, the Associate Director or other authorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(2) Proceedings not affected.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect any proceeding, including a notice of proposed rulemaking, or any application for any license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending before the Department of State on the effective date of this section, with respect to functions transferred under subsection (b). Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this section had not been enacted. Orders issued in any such proceedings shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, superseded, or revoked by a duly authorized official, by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law. Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any such proceeding

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- under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such proceeding could have been discontinued or modified if this section had not been enacted.
  - (3) Suits not affected.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect suits commenced before the date of the enactment of this Act. In all such suits, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this section had not been enacted.
  - (4) Nonabatement of actions.—No suit, action, or other proceeding commenced by or against the Department of State, or by or against any individual in the official capacity of such individual as an officer of the Department of State, shall abate by reason of the enactment of this section.
  - (5) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS RELATING TO PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—Any administrative action relating to the preparation or promulgation of a regulation by the Department of State relating to a function transferred under subsection (b) may be continued by the Directorate with the same effect as if this section had not been enacted.

1	(l) Separability.—If a provision of this section or
2	its application to any person or circumstance is held in-
3	valid, neither the remainder of this section nor the applica-
4	tion of the provision to other persons or circumstances
5	shall be affected.
6	(m) Transition.—The Associate Director is author-
7	ized to utilize—
8	(1) the services of such officers, employees, and
9	other personnel of the Department of State with re-
10	spect to functions transferred to the Directorate by
11	this section; and
12	(2) funds appropriated to such functions for
13	such period of time as may reasonably be needed to
14	facilitate the orderly implementation of this section.
15	(n) References.—Reference in any other Federal
16	law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of au-
17	thority, or any document of or relating to—
18	(1) the Secretary of State with regard to func-
19	tions transferred under subsection (b), shall be
20	deemed to refer to the Associate Director; and
21	(2) the Department of State with regard to
22	functions transferred under subsection (b), shall be
23	deemed to refer to the Directorate.
24	(o) Additional Conforming Amendments.—

1	(1) RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION.—After con-
2	sultation with the appropriate committees of Con-
3	gress and the Director of the Office of Management
4	and Budget, the Associate Director shall prepare
5	and submit to Congress recommended legislation
6	containing technical and conforming amendments to
7	reflect the changes made by this section.
8	(2) Submission to congress.—Not later than
9	180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
10	the Associate Director shall submit the rec-
11	ommended legislation referred to under paragraph
12	(1) to Congress.
13	SEC. 104. RESPONSIBILITIES OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IM-
14	MIGRATION SERVICES FOR ADOPTION-RE-
15	LATED CASE PROCESSING.
16	(a) In General.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
16 17	(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and
	•
17	rity, acting through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and
17 18	rity, acting through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—
17 18 19	rity, acting through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—  (1) shall be responsible for processing and case-
17 18 19 20	rity, acting through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—  (1) shall be responsible for processing and case-specific decisionmaking on all intercountry adoption
17 18 19 20 21	rity, acting through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—  (1) shall be responsible for processing and case-specific decisionmaking on all intercountry adoption cases (up to the point of application for an immigration).

Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14901 et seq.) and

- section 2 of the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 (42 U.S.C. 14925);
  - (2) shall ensure that all intercountry adoption suitability and eligibility determinations of prospective adoptive parents required under subparagraph (F) or (G) of section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)) are made in accordance with standard criteria that comply with the Hague Adoption Convention so that any such determination justifies a Convention adoption or a non-Convention adoption;
    - (3) to the maximum extent possible, and to the extent permitted by the country in which the child resides, shall ensure that all non-Convention adoption cases undergo preprocessing, including—
      - (A) the filing of a petition and the review of a child's eligibility to immigrate to the United States before the adoption or grant of legal custody (for purposes of emigration and adoption in the United States) of that child is completed in the country of origin; and
      - (B) the completion of all necessary and relevant investigations associated with the petition before the country of origin finalizes the adop-

1	tion or grants legal custody for purposes of
2	emigration and adoption in the United States;
3	(4) except as provided in paragraph (5), shall
4	be responsible for all case processing steps in Con-
5	vention and non-Convention adoption petitions on
6	behalf of children whom United States parents pro-
7	pose to immigrate to the United States (except for
8	the processing of immigrant visas), including proc-
9	essing of all necessary Hague Adoption Convention
10	certifications and the final adjudication of the immi-
11	gration petitions; and
12	(5) may delegate the responsibility for com-
13	pleting certain elements of case adjudication to the
14	Secretary of State if the Department of Homeland
15	Security—
16	(A) cannot adequately complete such ele-
17	ments due to the need for physical presence in
18	the country of origin or other processing-related
19	circumstances; and
20	(B) defines and monitors the parameters
21	for the elements delegated to the Secretary of
22	State and retains final decisionmaking author-
23	ity.
24	(b) Foreign Adoption Decrees.—

- 1 (1) CONVENTION COUNTRIES.—The 2-year
  2 legal custody and joint residence requirements set
  3 forth in section 101(b)(1)(E) of the Immigration
  4 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)(E)) shall
  5 not apply if the documentation submitted on behalf
  6 of a child includes—
  - (A) an adoption decree issued by a competent authority (as such term is used in the Hague Adoption Convention) of the child's country of origin and evidence that the adoption was granted in compliance with the Hague Adoption Convention; or
  - (B) a custody or guardianship decree issued by the competent authority of the child's country of origin to the adoptive parents, and a final adoption decree, verifying that the adoption of the child was later finalized outside the United States by the adoptive parents, in addition to evidence that the custody or guardianship was granted in compliance with the Hague Adoption Convention.
  - (2) Substantial compliance with hague adoption convention.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply unless—

1	(A) on the date on which the underlying
2	adoption, custody, or guardianship decree was
3	issued by the child's country of origin—
4	(i) that country's adoption procedures
5	complied with the requirements of the
6	Hague Adoption Convention (as deter-
7	mined by the United States central author-
8	ity); and
9	(ii) the competent authority of the
10	country of origin certified that the adop-
11	tion is consistent with Article 23 of the
12	Hague Adoption Convention; and
13	(B) the adoption was a Convention adop-
14	tion that was completed between 2 Convention
15	countries other than the United States.
16	(3) Non-convention countries.—The Sec-
17	retary of Homeland Security may accept the filing of
18	petitions on behalf of children living in non-Conven-
19	tion countries in the absence of a final adoption de-
20	cree.
21	(c) Cooperation With Foreign Governments.—
22	The Secretary of Homeland Security may interact directly
23	with the central authority of a Convention country or a
24	competent authority of a non-Convention country, as ap-
25	propriate—

1	(1) to facilitate the processing of intercountry
2	adoption cases, including making habitual residence
3	determinations relevant to children and prospective
4	adoptive parents in adoption proceedings; and
5	(2) to negotiate, in coordination with the De-
6	partment of State, and to implement bilateral agree-
7	ments with respect to intercountry adoptions.
8	(d) Amendments to the Intercountry Adop-
9	TION ACT OF 2000.—
10	(1) Transfer of responsibilities to the
11	SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—The Inter-
12	country Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14901 et
13	seq.) is amended—
14	(A) by striking "Attorney General" each
15	place it appears and inserting "Secretary of
16	Homeland Security"; and
17	(B) in the heading of section 103, by strik-
18	ing "ATTORNEY GENERAL" and inserting
19	"SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY".
20	(2) Hague convention certificates.—Sec-
21	tion 301 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 14931) is amend-
22	$\operatorname{ed}$ —
23	(A) in subsection (a)—
24	(i) in the subsection heading, by strik-
25	ing "Secretary of State" and inserting

1	"Secretary of Homeland Security";
2	and
3	(ii) in the heading to paragraph (1),
4	by striking "Secretary of State" and
5	inserting "Secretary of Homeland Se-
6	CURITY"; and
7	(B) by striking "Secretary of State" each
8	place it appears and inserting "Secretary of
9	Homeland Security".
10	(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
11	tents of such Act is amended by striking the item
12	relating to section 103 and inserting the following:
	"Sec. 103. Responsibilities of the Secretary of Homeland Security.".
13	(e) Definition of Child.—Section $101(b)(1)$ of the
14	Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1))
15	is amended—
16	(1) in subparagraph (E)—
17	(A) in clause (i), by striking "(i) a child
18	adopted while under the age of sixteen years"
19	and inserting "a child adopted while younger
20	than 18 years of age"; and
21	(B) by striking clause (ii);
22	(2) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as
23	follows:
24	"(F)(i) a child, younger than 18 years of
25	age at the time a petition is filed on the child's

1 behalf to accord a classification as an imme-2 diate relative under section 201(b), and who 3 has been adopted in a foreign state that is not 4 a party to the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-6 country Adoption, done at The Hague May 29, 7 1993, or who is emigrating from such a foreign 8 state to be adopted in the United States by a 9 United States citizen and spouse jointly, or by 10 an unmarried United States citizen who is at 11 least 25 years of age, if— 12 "(I) the Secretary of Homeland Secu-13 rity is satisfied that proper care will be 14 furnished the child if admitted to the 15 United States; 16 "(II) the child's natural parents (or 17 parent, in the case of a child who has 1 18 sole or surviving parent), or other persons 19 or institutions that retain legal custody of 20 the child, have freely given their written ir-21 revocable consent to the termination of 22 their legal relationship with the child, and 23 to the child's emigration and adoption; 24 "(III) the child has a living parent or 25 parents who has or have relinquished, or

1	will relinquish, the child voluntarily for the
2	purposes of intercountry adoption, and the
3	parent or parents are incapable of pro-
4	viding proper care for the child;
5	"(IV) the Secretary of Homeland Se-
6	curity, after considering whether there is a
7	petition pending to confer immigrant sta-
8	tus on one or both natural parents, is sat-
9	isfied that the purpose of the adoption is
10	to form a bona fide parent-child relation-
11	ship, and the parent-child relationship of
12	the child and the natural parents has been
13	terminated; and
14	"(V) in the case of a child who has
15	not been adopted—
16	"(aa) the competent authority of
17	the foreign state has approved the
18	child's emigration to the United
19	States for the purpose of adoption by
20	the prospective adoptive parent or
21	parents; and
22	"(bb) the prospective adoptive
23	parent or parents has or have com-
24	plied with any preadoption require-

1	ments of the child's proposed resi-
2	dence; and
3	"(ii) except that no natural parent or prior
4	adoptive parent of any such child shall there-
5	after, by virtue of such parentage, be accorded
6	any right, privilege, or status under this chap-
7	ter;"; and
8	(3) in subparagraph (G)—
9	(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
10	striking "16" and inserting "18";
11	(B) in clause (i)—
12	(i) in subclause (II), by striking "be-
13	cause of the death or disappearance of,
14	abandonment or desertion by, the other
15	parent"; and
16	(ii) in subclause (III), by striking
17	"two living natural parents, the natural
18	parents are" and inserting "a living parent
19	or parents, who have relinquished or will
20	relinquish the child voluntarily for the pur-
21	poses of intercountry adoption, the parent
22	or parents are";
23	(C) in clause (ii), by striking "; or" and in-
24	serting a period; and
25	(D) by striking clause (iii).

1 (f) Relative Adoptions; Waiver Authority.— 2 Section 502 of the Intercountry Adoption Act (42 U.S.C. 3 14952) is amended to read as follows: 4 "(a) Authority To Establish Alternative Pro-CEDURES FOR ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BY RELATIVES.— Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment 6 of the Children in Families First Act of 2014, the Sec-8 retary of Homeland Security shall establish, by regulation, alternative procedures for completing the intercountry 10 adoption of children by United States citizens who are related to such children by blood, marriage, or adoption. "(b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Home-12 land Security, acting through the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, may waive, on a case-by-14 15 case basis, applicable requirements for meeting the definition of a child under subparagraph (E), (F), or (G) of 16 section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)), or regulations issued with respect 18 to such definitions, in the interests of justice or to prevent 19 or respond to the threat of grave physical or emotional 21 harm to the child if the petitioner establishes that— 22 "(1) the child substantially complies with the 23 requirements under one of such subparagraphs; and 24 "(2) such a waiver would be in the child's best

interests.".

1	(g) Determination of Applicability of the
2	HAGUE ADOPTION CONVENTION IN CERTAIN CASES.—
3	The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the
4	Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
5	may determine, on a case-by-case basis, that a specific
6	intercountry adoption case may proceed as a non-Conven-
7	tion adoption if—
8	(1) the child's country of origin or habitual res-
9	idence is a Convention country;
10	(2) the central authority of the child's country
11	of origin or habitual residence has issued, or will
12	issue, an adoption decree which that country con-
13	siders to be legal and valid under that country's laws
14	to the United States adoptive or prospective adoptive
15	parents; and
16	(3) the central authority of the child's country
17	of origin or habitual residence has informed the Sec-
18	retary or the Director that it does not consider the
19	specific case to fall within the scope of the Hague
20	Adoption Convention.
21	(h) Special Use of Parole Authority.—
22	(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
23	Security, acting through the Director of U.S. Citi-
24	zenship and Immigration Services, may grant parole

1	to a child if the Secretary or the Director determines
2	that—
3	(A) the child's circumstances indicate that
4	immediate unification with the parties seeking
5	parole is in the child's best interests;
6	(B) waiting to complete other, more time
7	consuming immigration processing could be sig-
8	nificantly harmful to the child's well-being;
9	(C) the party or parties seeking parole on
10	behalf of the child—
11	(i) have a pre-existing legal relation-
12	ship with the child, as evidenced by an
13	adoption decree or a custody order; or
14	(ii) demonstrate a pre-existing rela-
15	tionship with the child and an intent to es-
16	tablish a legal relationship with the child,
17	which may be evidenced by—
18	(I) a familial relationship with
19	the child;
20	(II) a close personal relationship
21	with the child, such as—
22	(aa) being matched with the
23	child for an international adop-
24	tion by an adoption service pro-
25	vider or the competent authority

1	of the child's country of origin;
2	or
3	(bb) documentation showing
4	that the child's parents, if de-
5	ceased or otherwise incapacitated
6	and unable to provide proper care
7	for the child, intended for the
8	parties seeking parole to take
9	custody of the child; or
10	(III) the filing of adoption-re-
11	lated applications or petitions related
12	to the adoption of the child; and
13	(D) the child will receive proper care in the
14	United States by the party or parties who seek
15	parole on behalf of the child, based on a review
16	of the suitability of the party or parties, which
17	may include background check or completion of
18	a home study conducted by a competent author-
19	ity.
20	(2) Meeting the 2-year periods for the
21	PURPOSES OF FILING AN IMMEDIATE RELATIVE PE-
22	TITION ON BEHALF OF AN ADOPTED CHILD.—If a
23	child is granted parole under paragraph (1), is sub-
24	sequently adopted by the parties who sought parole,
25	and such parties seek permanent immigration status

1	for the child under section $101(b)(1)(E)$ of the Im-
2	migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C
3	1101(b)(1)(E))—
4	(A) the 2-year period for legal custody of
5	the child shall begin to accrue on the effective
6	date of a grant of custody in the child's country
7	of origin or habitual residence or in the United
8	States;
9	(B) the 2-year period for physical custody
10	of the child shall begin to accrue on the date or
11	which the party or parties seeking parole for
12	the child begin joint residence with the child, in
13	the child's country of origin or habitual resi-
14	dence or in the United States; and
15	(C) the 2-year periods of joint residence
16	and legal custody may accrue within or outside
17	the United States.
18	(i) Rulemaking.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
19	rity, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the
20	Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
21	shall issue regulations to carry out this section and the
22	amendments made by this section.

## TITLE II—ANNUAL REPORTING

2	SEC. 201. ANNUAL REPORT ON CHILDREN LIVING WITHOUT
3	FAMILIES.
4	(a) In General.—Not later than September 30,
5	2014, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in
6	consultation with the Director of the United States Agen-
7	cy for International Development and the Secretary of
8	State, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign
9	Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign
10	Affairs of the House of Representatives that—
11	(1) identifies the number of children living
12	without families; and
13	(2) describes the degree to which the various
14	family permanence solutions are being utilized.
15	(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection
16	(a) shall include—
17	(1) a description of the world's unparented chil-
18	dren, including—
19	(A) a description and quantitative analysis
20	of the world's unparented children by country,
21	identifying the nationality of the children phys-
22	ically present in each country and distin-
23	guishing among children who are citizens of the
24	country, noncitizen children lawfully present in
25	the country, and noncitizen children unlawfully

1	in the country, irrespective of a child's par-
2	ticular immigration status; and
3	(B) available data about such children bro-
4	ken into detailed categories and including—
5	(i) information on their nationality,
6	age, gender, and status;
7	(ii) whether they have a living parent
8	or parents and the status of those parents;
9	(iii) whether the unparented children
10	are considered abandoned, separated, relin-
11	quished, or have some other status;
12	(iv) whether they are institutionalized
13	or homeless;
14	(v) information on how they are docu-
15	mented, including through birth registries,
16	orphanage registries, United Nations High
17	Commissioner for Refugees registration, or
18	identity cards; and
19	(vi) an assessment of their living con-
20	ditions based on indicators such as crude
21	mortality rate, malnutrition rate, or other
22	similar indicators;
23	(2) a review of the previous fiscal year's pro-
24	gramming in support of appropriate, protective, and
25	permanent family care solutions, including project

- descriptions for each project by country, goals of each project, amount awarded for each project, and evaluation of outcomes during the fiscal year;
  - (3) an action plan covering proposed programming and activities for the next fiscal year in support of family permanency solutions, including goals for each country in which programming will occur, proposed allocations of resources by country, types of projects proposed by country, amounts of awards proposed for each project, and desired outcomes for each country;
  - (4) a review of trends over the last five years, including changes in the numbers and locations of unparented children and the reasons for the changes, such as new refugee arrivals, growing numbers of children abandoned at birth, and decreases in number of children in institutions;
  - (5) an overall analysis of highest priority situations of concern for unparented children, including analysis of whether the children are in a location that provides a cooperative environment for assistance programming and intercountry adoptions;
  - (6) a description of how intercountry adoption and refugee resettlement for unparented refugee children has played a role in each country over the

- last 10 years and the current status of such programs, including analysis of the situation with respect to the Hague Adoption Convention and how the Convention has affected intercountry adoptions from the country;
  - (7) aggregate reporting on intercountry adoptions to the United States, distinguishing between Convention adoptions and non-Convention adoptions and including—
    - (A) the total number of intercountry adoptions involving immigration to the United States by year over the past 10 years and projected data for the next fiscal year, distinguishing between Convention and non-Convention adoptions, including aggregate data on the country from which each child emigrated, the State of residence of the adoptive parents, and the country in which the adoption was finalized;
    - (B) the number of intercountry adoptions involving emigration from the United States, regardless of whether the adoption occurred under the Convention and distinguishing between Convention and non-Convention adoptions, including the country to which each child

immigrated and the State from which eachchild emigrated;

- (C) the average time required for completion of the immigration portion of intercountry adoptions, distinguishing between Convention and non-Convention adoptions, calculated as the time between filing of the initial immigrationrelated adoption petition on behalf of a child and the approval of that child's immigrant visa; and
- (D) the range of adoption fees charged in connection with intercountry adoptions involving immigration to the United States and the median of such fees; and
- (8) such additional information as may be requested by members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.
- 19 (c) Consultations.—To the extent possible, des-20 ignated representatives of the President should meet with 21 members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the 22 Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the 23 House of Representatives not later than 2 weeks before 24 the Secretary of State submits the report required under 25 subsection (a) to discuss the information described in sub-

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1	section (b). The substance of such consultations should be
2	printed in the Congressional Record.
3	(d) Repeal.—Section 104 of the Intercountry Adop-
4	tion Act (42 U.S.C. 14914) is repealed.
5	SEC. 202. COUNTRY REPORTS REGARDING SEVERE FORMS
6	OF TRAFFICKING.
7	Section 502B(h)(1)(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act
8	of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(h)(1)(B)) is amended by adding
9	at the end the following:
10	"(x) What steps the government of that
11	country has taken to reduce the number of chil-
12	dren living outside of family care.
13	"(xi) What steps the government of that
14	country has taken to reduce the number of chil-
15	dren abused, neglected, or exploited.".
16	TITLE III—PROMOTION OF A
17	COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH
18	FOR CHILDREN IN ADVER-
19	SITY
20	SEC. 301. ESTABLISHMENT OF A USAID CENTER FOR EX-
21	CELLENCE FOR CHILDREN IN ADVERSITY.
22	(a) CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE FOR CHILDREN IN
23	Adversity.—
24	(1) In general.—There is established within
25	the United States Agency for International Develop-

- ment a Center of Excellence on Children in Adver-1 2 sity.
- (2) COORDINATOR.—The Center for Excellence 3 shall be headed by the Children in Adversity Coordi-5 nator, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of 6 State, in consultation with the Administrator of the 7 United States Agency for International Develop-8 ment.
- 9 (3) Objectives.—The Center of Excellence on 10 Children in Adversity shall work in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Vulnerable 12 Children and Family Security of the Department of 13 State to promote greater United States Government 14 coherence and accountability for whole-of-govern-15 ment assistance to children in adversity and ensure 16 that United States foreign assistance and develop-17 ment programs are focused on the following objec-18 tives:
  - (A) The sound development of children through the integration of health, nutrition, and family support.
  - (B) Supporting and enabling families to care for children through family preservation, reunification, and support of kinship care,

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1	guardianship, and domestic and intercountry
2	adoption.
3	(C) Facilitating the efforts of national gov-
4	ernments and partners to prevent, respond to,
5	and protect children from violence, exploitation,
6	abuse, and neglect.
7	(4) Authorities.—The Children in Adversity
8	Coordinator, acting through nongovernmental orga-
9	nizations (including faith-based and community-
10	based organizations), partner country finance,
11	health, education, social welfare, and other min-
12	istries, and relevant executive branch agencies, is au-
13	thorized to—
14	(A) operate internationally to carry out the
15	programs and activities outlined in the Action
16	Plan for Children in Adversity;
17	(B) provide grants to, and enter into con-
18	tracts and cooperative agreements with, non-
19	governmental organizations (including faith-
20	based organizations) to carry out this section;
21	and
22	(C) transfer and allocate United States
23	Agency for International Development funds
24	that have been appropriated for the purposes
25	described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

1	(5) Functions.—In consultation with the As-
2	sistant Secretary of the Bureau of Children's Affairs
3	in the Department of State, the Children in Adver-
4	sity Coordinator shall, through the Center of Excel-
5	lence—
6	(A) facilitate program and policy coordina-
7	tion related to the goals and objectives of the
8	Action Plan for Children in Adversity among
9	relevant executive branch agencies and non-
10	governmental organizations by auditing, moni-
11	toring, and evaluating such programs;
12	(B) ensure that each relevant executive
13	branch agency undertakes responsibility for ac-
14	tivities related primarily to those areas in which
15	the agency has the greatest expertise, technical
16	capability, and potential for success;
17	(C) coordinate relevant executive branch
18	agency activities related to the Action Plan for
19	Children in Adversity;
20	(D) establish due diligence criteria for all
21	recipients of funds appropriated by the United
22	States Government for assistance to children in

adversity; and

1	(E) oversee the administration of the pri-
2	ority country demonstration program as de-
3	scribed in subsection (f).
4	(6) Assistance.—The President is authorized
5	to provide assistance, including through inter-
6	national, nongovernmental, or faith-based organiza-
7	tions, for programs in developing countries—
8	(A) to increase the percentage of children
9	achieving age-appropriate growth and develop-
10	mental milestones;
11	(B) to increase the percentage of children
12	under 5 years of age demonstrating secure at-
13	tachment with a primary caregiver;
14	(C) to integrate health, nutrition, develop-
15	mental protections, and caregiving support for
16	vulnerable children and their families;
17	(D) to increase the percentage of children
18	living within appropriate, permanent, safe, and
19	protective family care, through family preserva-
20	tion and reunification, and through kinship
21	care, guardianship, and domestic and inter-
22	country adoption, and to reduce the percentage
23	of children living in institutions;

1	(E) to increase the percentage of families
2	providing adequate nutrition, education oppor-
3	tunities, care, and protection for their children;
4	(F) to reduce the percentage of children
5	who experience violence, exploitation, abuse,
6	and neglect;
7	(G) to increase the percentage of children
8	who receive appropriate care and protection
9	after experiencing violence, exploitation, abuse,
10	or neglect;
11	(H) to increase public awareness that vio-
12	lence, exploitation, abuse, or neglect of children
13	as unacceptable;
14	(I) to increase the percentage of countries
15	that ratify and implement relevant conventions
16	or formally adopt internationally recognized
17	principles, standards, and procedural safe-
18	guards to protect children from violence, exploi-
19	tation, abuse, and neglect;
20	(J) to increase the percentage of children
21	who have legal documentation and birth reg-
22	istration;
23	(K) to increase the number of laws, poli-
24	cies, and practices in partner states that pro-
25	mote and strengthen child welfare and protec-

1	tion at household, community, and national lev-
2	els is increased;
3	(L) to increase national and local human
4	resource capacity for child welfare and protec-
5	tion;
6	(M) to increase the number of national and
7	community systems effectively monitoring child
8	welfare and protection concerns, programs, and
9	outcomes;
10	(N) to encourage and assist in the collec-
11	tion of data related to children outside of family
12	care;
13	(O) to increase the number of prevalence
14	studies that measure and track trends in chil-
15	dren's exposure to violence, exploitation, abuse,
16	and neglect;
17	(P) to increase the number of published
18	outcome/impact evaluations on interventions to
19	assist children outside of family care or mini-
20	mize exposure to violence, exploitation, abuse,
21	and neglect that can be generalized to larger
22	target groups;
23	(Q) to increase the number of national
24	governments and universities leading rigorous
25	data collection, research, and monitoring and

1	evaluation studies related to child welfare and
2	protection; and
3	(R) to increase the number of United
4	States Government-supported interventions for
5	children in adversity designed using data from
6	rigorous research methodologies.
7	(b) Monitoring and Evaluation.—
8	(1) Establishment of system.—To maxi-
9	mize the sustainable development impact of assist-
10	ance authorized under this section, and pursuant to
11	the primary objective of the Action Plan for Chil-
12	dren in Adversity, the President shall establish a
13	monitoring and evaluation system to measure the ef-
14	fectiveness of United States assistance to children in
15	adversity.
16	(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The monitoring and eval-
17	uation system shall—
18	(A) be aligned with the objectives and out-
19	comes outlined by the Action Plan for Children
20	in Adversity; and
21	(B) provide a basis for recommendations
22	for adjustments to the assistance provided
23	under this part.
24	(c) Priority Country Demonstration Pro-
25	GRAM.—

1	(1) In General.—The Administrator of the
2	United States Agency for International Develop
3	ment, in consultation with the Secretary of State
4	shall establish and carry out a priority country dem
5	onstration program implementing the Action Plan
6	for Children in Adversity over a period of 5 years in
7	at least 6 countries.
8	(2) Purposes.—The purposes of the programs
9	established under subparagraph (1) shall be—
10	(A) to demonstrate how research-based
11	policies and programs to achieve the core objec
12	tives of the Action Plan for Children in Adver
13	sity can be successfully implemented on a na
14	tional level;
15	(B) to establish model programs that, once
16	tested for efficacy, will be available for replica
17	tion on a global basis;
18	(C) to identify a comprehensive series of
19	interventions which result in meeting the out
20	comes and objectives of the Action Plan for
21	Children in Adversity; and
22	(D) to determine which in-country factors
23	advance or negate the successful achievement of

the outcomes and objectives of the action plan.

1	(3) Criteria for selection of coun-
2	TRIES.—The criteria for selection of countries shall
3	include—
4	(A) magnitude and severity of the prob-
5	lems to be addressed;
6	(B) partner country interest in participa-
7	tion in a comprehensive implementation of all 3
8	goals of the Action Plan for Children in Adver-
9	sity, including, with respect to the second objec-
10	tive (Families First), expressed willingness to
11	support the full complement of permanence so-
12	lutions (including family preservation, reunifica-
13	tion, kinship care, guardianship, and domestic
14	and intercountry adoption), and commitments
15	to support and allow monitoring and evaluation,
16	as well as transparent reporting;
17	(C) potential to leverage bilateral, multilat-
18	eral, and foundation investments;
19	(D) potential to leverage other United
20	States development investments;
21	(E) regional diversity to maximize learning
22	opportunities; and
23	(F) level of economic development, with a
24	focus on low- and middle-income countries.
25	(d) Repeals.—

1	(1) Assistance to orphans and other vul-
2	NERABLE CHILDREN.—Section 135 of the Foreign
3	Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2152f) is re-
4	pealed.
5	(2) Annual Report.—Section 5 of the Assist-
6	ance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in
7	Developing Countries Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C.
8	2152g) is hereby repealed.
9	TITLE IV—FUNDING AND
10	EFFECTIVE DATES
11	SEC. 401. FUNDING.
12	(a) Prohibition on New Appropriations.—No
13	additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to
14	carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.
15	This Act and such amendments shall be carried out using
16	amounts otherwise available for such purposes, including
17	unobligated balances of funds made available to carry out
18	activities under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
19	U.S.C. 2151 et seq.).
20	(b) Limitations on Use of Funds.—
21	(1) United Nations.—No funds obligated in
22	accordance with this Act may be awarded to the
23	United Nations or any of its subsidiaries.

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1	(2) Administrative expenses.—Not more
2	than two percent of the amounts described in sub-
3	section (a) may be used for administrative expenses.
4	(c) Focus of Assistance provided
5	under this Act—
6	(1) shall focus primarily on promoting inter-
7	national child welfare, as set forth in this Act, for
8	all children in adversity; and
9	(2) may be provided on such terms and condi-
10	tions as the President determines appropriate.
11	SEC. 402. EFFECTIVE DATES.
12	(a) Effective Upon Enactment.—Sections 104
13	and $202$ and title III and IV shall take effect on the date
14	of the enactment of this Act.
15	(b) Delayed Effective Date.—Sections 101,
16	102, 103, and 201 shall take effect on the date that is

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17 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.