Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 14, 2013

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As representatives from Ohio, the state most affected by this issue, we are writing to request your assistance with finding a solution for the small number of Russian orphans who are in the final stages of the adoption process, but are not able to have their adoptions completed due to the Russian adoption ban. The number of Ohio families halted by this ban is the highest of any state in the country. As a united delegation, we urge you to prioritize this issue and seek a prompt resolution when you meet with President Putin at the G8 Summit in June.

The orphans affected by this ban are vulnerable and without families or homes in Russia. Many of these children have a disability that requires medical care that they are not receiving in Russia. These children are loved by and have come to know the American parents who want to welcome them into their homes and provide a life filled with promise.

The Ohio families in this process have remained vigilant and are doing everything in their power to help bring these children home. These parents have made countless trips to Russia before the adoption ban to spend time with the children with whom they were matched who have become their sons and daughters.

We have visited with these families and have heard them speak about these children who have already had such an impact on their lives and communities. Families from Toledo to Cincinnati and Lima to Akron, have opened their homes to these children and now their hearts are breaking. Thousands of Ohioans have also heard these stories and demand that Congress and the administration do what is necessary find a solution.

Please find a humanitarian solution for these children and these families. We ask that you continue to work with the Russian delegation and we urge you to prioritize this issue with President Putin to help these children.

Thank you for making these efforts on behalf of these children and families.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Rob Portman
United States Senator

John A. Boehner
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Bob Latta
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

James Renacci
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

David Joyce
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress