DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TASKER

IPS CONTROL# 0901 ACTION BUREAU: CA

DATE: JUL 7 2009

IPS:
X CONSTITUENT MEMBER Reed
X IMAGE ENTIRE DOCUMENT IMAGE ONLY FIRST PAGES

BUREAU:

BUREAU ACTION REQUESTED: RESPOND TO CCU 7 DAYS FROM:

__ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY Richard R. Verma, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
X ADDRESS ENVELOPE TO DISTRICT OFFICE

DIRECT REPLY TO CONSTITUENT BY OFFICE DIRECTOR WITH COPY TO CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE. PHONE 7-1668 WHEN COMPLETED

FYI ONLY/NO RESPONSE NECESSARY
X REPLY FOR SIGNATURE DIRECTLY BY BUREAU

OTHER ACTION:

FOR GUIDANCE/INFORMATION ON FORMATTING CONGRESSIONALS SEE:
http://www.legislativeaffairs.state.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PublicDisplay&Shortcut=JJP/N

DUE DATE:

****BUREAUS MUST MAKE TRANSFERS OF ACTION DIRECTLY WITH RECEIVING BUREAU'S FRONT OFFICE. PLEASE NOTIFY CCU 7-1668 OF ALL TRANSFERS OF ACTION****
July 7, 2009

Ms. Roxanne Reed
Chief
US Department of State
Office of Congressional Liaison
2201 C Street, N.W., Room 5917
Washington, DC 20520-7261

Dear Ms. Reed:

I am writing to you as a follow up to my correspondence dated March 20, 2009 and June 5, 2009 that I sent on behalf of my constituent, Mr. _____________. Enclosed, please find a copy of my previous correspondence for your review.

Our records indicate that we have not received a response to our inquiry regarding my constituent's case with your office. I respectfully request your review of this matter and any information relative to the status of this case is appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Del Carmen of my State Office Staff at (401) 943-3100.

Thank you again for your attention and assistance to this matter and I look forward to your written response.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator
June 5, 2009

Ms. Roxanne Reed
US Department of State
Office of Congressional Liaison
2201 C Street, N.W., Room 5917
Washington, DC 20520-7261

Dear Ms. Reed:

I am writing to you as a follow up to my correspondence dated March 20, 2009 that I sent on behalf of my constituent, Mr.___________. Enclosed, please find a copy of my previous correspondence for your review.

Our records indicate that we have not received a response to our inquiry regarding my constituent's case with your office. I respectfully request your review of this matter and any information relative to the status of this case is appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Del Carmen of my State Office Staff at (401) 943-3100.

Thank you again for your attention and assistance to this matter and I look forward to your written response.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator
March 20, 2009

Ms. Roxanne Reed  
US Department of State  
Office of Congressional Liaison  
2201 C Street, N.W., Room 5917  
Washington, DC 20520-7261

Dear Ms. Reed:

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituent Mr. [REDACTED] who contacted my office regarding the adoption of two boys from Ethiopia.

Enclosed please find the information [REDACTED] sent to my office detailing the problem they have faced in dealing with an orphanage in Ethiopia and the possibility that they have been victims of fraud.

Pursuant to all applicable rules and regulations, I respectfully request your review of this matter and would appreciate any assistance that may be extended to my constituents at this time. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Norelys R. Consuegra of my staff at (401) 943-3100. Please direct your written response to my State Office in Cranston, Rhode Island.

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed  
United States Senator
To Whom It May Concern:

While adoptive parents with other agencies were being assigned Ethiopian adoption court dates in a matter of weeks, months went by for us. Meanwhile we continued to pay a monthly foster fee of $375 each month (increased to $400 a few months ago). Our inquiries were often left literally unanswered. When we were able to get a reply we were told that Ms. Carter-Shotts had no information. In July of 2008 we received an invoice and a follow up email requiring us to pay the entirety of our adoption fees for [blank]. We sent AFCA a check for $9750.00 in mid-July. We continue to pay a monthly foster fee of $400.

As time went on, there were emails sent to the Families of AFCA email list stating that AFCA was “hurting for funds”. On September 25, 2008 the AFCA families received an email stating that Haregewoin Teferra needed $10,000 immediately. We were told that many of our children came from Ms. Teferra’s orphanage and that unless the money was raised, the orphanage would not help process court dates for us waiting families. The email also stated that AFCA owed Ms. Teferra $21,000 and didn’t currently have that money. Ms. Carter-Shotts also stated that Ms. Teferra was a “lovely honest woman who has spent much of her life helping orphan children”.

Months went by without word and we became increasingly concerned. In December we emailed again and received a reply from Ms. Carter-Shotts stating that she didn’t think there were any problems with our adoption case. On January 22, 2009 we spoke to Ms. Carter-Shotts and found out that AFCA had shut down its Ethiopian adoption program and foster home. Our children had been moved at some point without our knowledge back to the orphanage of Haregewoin Teferra. Ms. Carter-Shotts informed us that there was a money dispute between herself and Ms. Teferra. She asked us to accept a referral of children from another country, which we declined. She claimed that Ms. Teferra threatened to give our children to a “European couple”. She repeatedly claimed that our wait for a court date is the fault of
her staff in Ethiopia, Haregewoin Teferra, and the Ethiopian government. At this point she has been unable to give us any specific information about our case or our children.

There are five other families in the same situation as us. One of the other families has been in contact with Congressman John Boehner’s office. Boehner’s staff is looking into the situation and has said that they would welcome support.

We do not know where to turn, who to trust or what can be done about our situation.

Any help you can provide us would be greatly appreciated. We can be reached any time at the contact info below.

With Warmest Regards,