

OHIO IMMIGRANT  
ALLIANCE

December 15, 2022

The Honorable Rob Portman  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Portman:

“My greatest wish this holiday season is to again be reunited with my son.” When I read those words from [Susan Gray](#), a Seville mom of two, my heart breaks. I know yours does too.

The Adoptee Citizenship Act is a bill that would bring this Ohio man home to his family. It’s simple, straightforward, and bipartisan; the bill has already passed the House. Including it in any must-pass legislation before the end of this year, such as the omnibus appropriations bill, would be a huge step forward for this and other Ohio families.

When the government has the power to do good, it should use it.

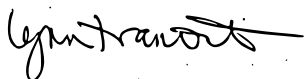
This bill is necessary because prior attempts to fix the citizenship gap in international adoptions only included younger children. In the case of the Gray family, one of their sons was granted citizenship through the Child Citizenship Act of 2000. The other was not, because he was 19 at the time. A few years later, he was deported to a country he did not know, and to this day his family remains divided.

The same thing happened to [Joao Herbert](#), a young man from Ohio whose citizenship struggle and subsequent deportation made international news. His experience was part of the rationale for passage of the Child Citizenship Act. Yet, Joao never got a chance to become a U.S. citizen. He was murdered in Brazil a few years after being deported.

With Joao’s deportation and death, another Ohio family is dealing with the pain of separation, but their separation is final.

The Ohio Immigrant Alliance is a strong supporter of the Adoptee Citizenship Act. Adopted children deserve the same rights as biological children, full stop. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we hope you will add your name as a co-sponsor to the bill and push for its enactment before this Congress ends.

Respectfully,



Lynn Tramonte

Director, Ohio Immigrant Alliance