



DeMint's Hope For Children Act Passes

House of Representatives Unanimously

Legislation Permanently Extends and Expands Adoption Tax Credit

Washington, DC - The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Hope for Children Act today by a vote of 420 to 0.

The Hope for Children Act (H.R. 622) expands the adoption tax credit to \$10,000 for all adoptions. The current \$5,000 credit is set to expire this year for non-special needs adoptions. H.R. 622 was introduced on February 14, 2001 and has 289 bipartisan cosponsors.

Rep. Jim DeMint is the bill's primary sponsor and the leader of the Hope Coalition, a group of House members committed to the passage of the legislation.

"The Hope for Children Act will help to build more loving, stable families in America and send a strong signal all across our land that every child is a wanted child," DeMint said. "Because of the high cost of adoption, many couples are prevented or delayed from moving forward in the adoption process. The Hope for Children Act will ease this financial burden and help make adoption a reality for those who want to open their hearts and homes to children in need."

The revised Hope for Children Act permanently extends and doubles the adoption tax credit to \$10,000, increases the earnings limit, and exempts the beneficiaries from the Alternative Minimum Tax. Additionally, the bill extends and doubles the tax exclusion allowed for employer-provided adoption benefits which is also set to expire this year.

In addition to Rep. DeMint, the "Hope Coalition" is made up of Representatives Jim Oberstar (D-MN), House Conference Vice-Chair Deborah Pryce (R-OH), Spencer Bachus (R-AL), Peter King (R-NY)]. The House bill as introduced mirrors S. 148, introduced by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) and Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) on January 23, 2001.