

# **Congressman Jim Oberstar**

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Oberstar Lauds Passage of Hope for Children Act**

**WASHINGTON - Today, the House of Representatives approved by unanimous vote the Hope for Children Act, legislation to extend and expand the adoption tax credit. As an adoptive parent and as the chief Democratic sponsor of this legislation, Congressman Jim Oberstar applauded the overwhelming vote for this important legislation.**

**My late wife Jo and I adopted our son Ted when he was three weeks old, and he brought us such joy. Since Ted came into our family, I have strongly supported efforts to promote the life-affirming experience of adoption, Oberstar said. From my earliest days of service in Congress, I have worked to utilize the tax code to promote adoption. In 1975, I introduced the first adoption tax bill to provide a \$500 tax deduction, and I am very pleased that the House has far exceeded my initial legislation with the Hope for Children Act which would double the current tax credit from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Since some adoption tax credit provisions are scheduled to expire at the end of this year, I am delighted that the House has taken this important step to ensure that thousands of families who seek to adopt continue to receive this vital assistance.**

**While I remain very concerned with the tax priorities of President Bush, the passage of the Hope for Children Act demonstrates that Democrats and Republicans can work in a bipartisan manner to advance legislation which meets a very important social need. I believe strongly that we must help children in need, especially those who do not have a loving and permanent home, Oberstar added.**

**Congressman Oberstar expressed disappointment that a provision to assist families who adopt children with special needs was deleted by the House Ways and Means Committee.**

**I am troubled that our efforts to assist special needs families was removed, and I will continue to work with members of the Ways and Means Committee to restore this essential component of the Hope for Children Act. Far too many families who adopt children with special needs have been unable to make use of the current adoption tax credit, and I strongly support changes in the tax code to assist these families with their post-adoption expenses, Oberstar concluded.**