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27 January 2020

Kansas House Judiciary Committee
SW 8th & SW Van Buren
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Committee Members:

I am Hyebin Schreiber, daughter of Patrick and Soo Jin Schreiber. As Patrick and Soo Jin's adopted daughter, I am a proponent for Kansas House Bill 2333 – allowing a court to make a finding that a final decree of adoption take effect at an earlier date. Soo Jin Schreiber is my aunt and Patrick Schreiber is my uncle. I am 22 years old and graduated in December 2019 from the University of Kansas with a degree in chemical engineering.

In the summer of 2012, I was only 15 years old, but I knew I was not having the best time in Korea as my family began to significantly deteriorate. I sought an escape from Korea and still vividly remember the day I asked my aunt to take me to the United States. She and my uncle gratefully accepted my huge favor without a hesitation. Then, I arrived in Kansas in December 2012 and started my new life with them. It was different. There was always a nice and warm breakfast ready for me when I woke up to get ready for school. It was always warm inside the car when they dropped me off the school. Sometimes, it was too hot that I had to ask them to turn it down. It all started just like that. Their welcoming and warm hearts opened mine and changed my entire life.

As these days continued, I only knew how to keep it in my heart, so I expressed my wish to stay in Kansas with them, as a family. Just like the summer of 2012, they appreciated my desire of three of us being a family and I was adopted by my aunt and uncle.

Not long ago when I was ready to go off to college, our family were notified that I was not eligible to obtain a U.S citizenship. Despite the multiple denials, my parents never gave up on me but rather fully supported me to attend college and start studying the major I wanted to; chemical engineering, at the University of Kansas. During four and half years at KU, I not only had my own family who love and support me with full hearts by my side, but also learned to grow my own communities. I was the president of KU Korean Student Union and established this organization to build a welcoming environment to Korean students at KU and interact with non-Korean KU students to raise the awareness of diversity on the campus. I was the vice president of Ddobaki, a young adult church group at the Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, KS to share loves I received from God, my parents, my church family, and my friends throughout the campus. I was the manager for KU Biodiesel Initiative to help grow the biodiesel community on KU campus and to continue my academic interest in biodiesel to possibly receive the opportunity to work at my dream company called Cargill in Wichita, KS. Because of these days, memories,

and dreams our family made together in Kansas, I could be who I am today. By the time I was applying for graduation, I realized that these days, memories, and dreams may not continue, and I was afraid of breaking my promises with my family I kept in 2012.

My family shares our love and would sacrifice anything for one another. Our emotions for each other sometimes turn into complaints and arguments and this is why we are family; because these values coexist in our family. Though all three of us may not be from Kansas or may not have been born in Kansas, we grew up together as a family in Kansas for the past 8 years and we are proud to call Kansas our home. As a proponent for HB2333, we ultimately seek its passing through the legislative process and approval by the Governor of Kansas at its best just to keep our family together in Kansas the way it has been.

Sincerely,

Hyebin Schreiber