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

Dear Committee Members:

I'm Patrick Schreiber, Hyebin Yoo Schreiber's father. As Hyebin's adopted father, 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. Biologically, my wife, Soo Jin Schreiber, is Hyebin's aunt. Hyebin is my niece by affinity. I am a retired active duty Lieutenant Colonel, serving in the United States Army for 25 years. During my Army career I participated in six combat tours: the invasion of Panama, The First Gulf War, two long tours in both Iraq, and two long tours in Afghanistan. In the last ten years of my military service, I was deployed for five of those years.

It was before my last tour in Afghanistan from 2013 to 2014, when Hyebin came to live with us to attend school in the United States. She arrived in December of 2012 at the age of 15 years old on a student F1 Visa. Hyebin's home life in Korea was always tumultuous and began to significantly deteriorate in 2012. Hyebin, seeking refuge, asked my wife if she could come to the United States for school. Knowing Hyebin's home situation and the special bond shared between my wife and Hyebin, without reservation we opened our home and our hearts to Hyebin. The moment she walked through our front door, our lives changed inexplicably.

Prior to Hyebin's arrival, I was a by-name request by the 4th Infantry Division to assume the position of Director of Intelligence of the Division, for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan from 2013 to 2014. The train up and preparation ran from February to April 2013, which required my attendance for various mission readiness exercises required for assuming command of Regional Command-South, Afghanistan. Hyebin and my wife stayed in the Fort Leavenworth area, while I moved to Fort Carson, Colorado in May 2013 and then deployed into Afghanistan in June the same year. In the interim prior to my departure to Afghanistan, Hyebin expressed her desire to remain with us at which time I contacted a lawyer on the legalities of adopting a non-U.S. foreign child. The lawyer provided a brief synopsis of Kansas' adoption requirement, primarily Hyebin needed to be adopted prior to age 18 and entered the United States legally. Due to my pre-deployment preparation, which we felt would interfere with the adoption process, we decided to wait upon my return from Afghanistan to begin the process believing we had ample time to start and complete the process prior to Hyebin turning 18.

I returned from Afghanistan in June of 2014 and we began the adoption process in October 2014. Hyebin was officially adopted in November of 2014, and in February of 2015 we were notified Hyebin's citizenship application was denied since she was adopted after the age of 16. Since the day we received the notification of denial, we have and continue to explore all possible means to

keep our family together here in Kansas. Upon my return from Afghanistan, my wife asked me if I was ready to retire. She laid out her rationale on why it's time to retire, which centered on Kansas is now our home and she was adamant about not having to move again. As a family, we realized it was Hyebin who was the catalyst to call Kansas home. Her heart was set on attending the University Of Kansas School Of Engineering and majoring in Chemical Engineering, her friends were here in Kansas, and she truly developed an affinity for Kansas.

At Hyebin's adoption, the judge told my wife and me, by adopting Hyebin we take on the responsibility for her education, wellbeing, and overall care no different than if we were her biological parents. That day my wife and I saw all our hopes and dreams in Hyebin, and we have provided Hyebin every opportunity within our means to fulfill her dreams. Since that day Hyebin has not squandered one opportunity. She graduated from the University Of Kansas School Of Engineering in December 2019 with a degree in chemical engineering, whose program started with 200 students where only 80 graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. In addition to her academic success, Hyebin matured into her own woman finding herself and her path in life. Through introspective reflection, Hyebin accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized in October 2019 at the Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, KS.

Our fight to remain a family here in Kansas is an unexpected turn in events, but it's the most important fight we've encountered. We've learned not to take our time as a family for granted, for our family's future is still undetermined. As a proponent for HB2333, we ultimately seek its passing through the legislative process and approval by the Governor of Kansas. My proponency for HB2333 is selfish at best, it's simply to keep my family together here in Kansas. On good faith we followed Kansas adoption standards, and in accordance with Kansas Law we legally adopted our daughter, and now we are challenged to keep our family together. A family the State of Kansas legally recognizes, a family whose roots are here in Kansas...Kansas will always be the Schreiber Family's home.

Sincerely,

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