

Dear Colleague,

By now you should have received an invitation to a breakfast briefing hosted by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), and sponsored by Family Health International. You and your Staff are invited to a breakfast briefing on AIDS Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Africa on Friday, April 20, 2007 from 8:00 to 9:30 AM in Rayburn B369 . I will be joined by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), Sheila Mitchell, Senior Vice President for Global Operations for Family Health International, and Melissa Fay Greene, journalist and author of *There Is No Me Without You*. Each attendee will receive a copy of Melissa's book.

Between 25-50 million African children, from new born to age 15, will be parentless by 2010. In Africa today, there are more than thirteen million children who are orphaned due to the AIDS pandemic that has swept across the continent. In sub-Saharan Africa, 25% of the children are orphaned. In Ethiopia alone, the second most populous African nation, 11 % of all children are orphaned and 6% of the country's entire population is inflected with the disease.

As the Chair of the Congressional Ethiopian American Caucus, I am particularly concerned with the historical rate at which Ethiopian children are orphaned. In 2006, the State Department issued 732 immigrant visas to Ethiopian orphans, an increase from 441 in 2005. For the first time in U.S. history, an African country is in the top five sending countries for international adoptions to the United States. The Ethiopian Government works diligently to ensure the orphan status of its children, and its laws and regulations continue to be reviewed in order ensure that adequate protections are provided to its orphaned children.

This breakfast briefing is a part of our educational efforts on issues surrounding orphans and vulnerable children in Africa. Space is limited, so please contact Courteney Holden at courteney@ccainstitute.org or Selam.Mulugeta@mail.house.gov to RSVP.

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Sincerely, S/Michael M. Honda