

# Congress Considers Adoption Tax Relief

by Keith Peters, Washington, D.C., correspondent

*The costs of adoption are being addressed in a plan to extend tax credits on a permanent basis.*

Federal lawmakers are working to guarantee help in easing the financial burden of adoption, seeking to offer permanent tax breaks to adoptive parents.

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., has introduced the Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act of 2005, the main goal of which is extending breaks in the tax code set to expire.

"The current tax relief that we have for adoptions that provides for \$10,000 for a child adoption tax credit will expire in the year 2010," Wilson said.

That's why he's working with U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., to pass proposals to permanently extend that \$10,000 credit.

"(We want to) permanently encourage domestic and international adoptions and promote adoption as a policy for the people of the United States," Wilson said.

Lee Allen, a spokesman for the National Council for Adoption, said his organization hears of many cases in which families have been scared away from adoption simply because of the enormous cost involved.

"Adoptions can cost upwards of \$20,000 or \$30,000 dollars," he noted, "based on whether it's domestic or international."

But regardless of the cost involved, he added, adoption is an option that loving families should consider.

"Children, of course, benefit by living with permanent families," Allen said. "The families benefit by being able to give the love that they have to a child in need."

He also said society benefits, because statistics show a child does best within a loving family.

A similar bill, which was introduced in the last Congress, passed the House by a bipartisan margin of 414-0. That piece of legislation, however, got bottled up in the Senate.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you are considering adoption, we recommend you obtain ["The Whole Life Adoption Book"](#) by Jayne E. Schooler.