

February 15, 2001

**HOUSE & SENATE JOIN REP. JIM DeMINT IN INTRODUCING
THE HOPE FOR CHILDREN ACT**

Washington, DC -- Members of the House and Senate joined Rep. Jim DeMint (R-SC) today to celebrate the introduction of the Hope for Children Act (H.R. 622), a bipartisan bill to expand the adoption tax credit to \$10,000. The current \$5,000 credit is set to expire this year for non-special needs adoptions. H.R. 622 was introduced on February 14, 2001 with 188 original cosponsors.

DeMint is the bill's primary sponsor and leader of the Hope Coalition, a group of House members committed to the passage of the legislation.

The revised Hope for Children Act permanently extends and doubles the adoption tax credit to \$10,000, indexes the credit for inflation, increases the earnings limit, and exempts the beneficiaries from the Alternative Minimum Tax. Additionally, the bill extends and doubles the tax exclusion allowed for employer-provided adoption benefits which is also set to expire this year, and includes a \$10,000 flat credit for special needs adoptions.

"Adoption provides children with a loving, permanent home," DeMint said today. "I am pleased to sponsor this legislation to make adoption a reality so that more families across America can open their homes to children in need. One of the greatest titles in the world is parent. One of the biggest blessings in life is to have someone to call mom and dad. We hope this bill will help unite children with parents and build strong, stable families in our country."

In addition to Rep. DeMint, the "Hope Coalition" is made up of Representatives Jim Oberstar (D-MN), House Conference Vice-Chair Deborah Pryce (R-OH), Spencer Bachus (R-AL), Peter King (R-NY)]. The House bill mirrors S. 148, introduced by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) and Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) on January 23, 2001.

Last Congress, the Hope for Children Act was championed by Senator Craig and Senator Landrieu and then-Commerce Committee Chairman Tom Bliley (R-VA), and gathered 280 co-sponsors in the House.