

Congressman Rothman Recognizes National Adoption Month

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(Washington, D.C.) - This November, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) is joining with other Members of Congress and the President to raise awareness about the importance of adoption by participating in the newly-designated National Adoption Month. While National Adoption Day will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Saturday, November 21, 2009, this is the first year that an entire month will focus on this important child welfare issue.

Rothman is participating in Voice for Adoption's Portrait Project. The theme of the Portrait Project this year is "Many Faces, Many Families," and it highlights the ability of all types of families to provide a loving and stable home for those in need. Voice for Adoption is a national non-profit organization which advocates for adoption and adoptive parents.

As part of the initiative, Rep. Rothman is displaying a photograph in his Washington, DC office of the Lloyd and Freid family who live in Teaneck, New Jersey. Long-time partners Marc Lloyd and William Freid, were eager to adopt children long before the nation's cultural mindset and practices allowed same-sex couples and other non-traditional prospective parents to do so. So Marc and William were overjoyed to be able to adopt their first child, Tyrone, in 2005. In 2008, they added siblings Carmen and Jesus to their growing family. Marc and William are now in the process of adopting their fourth child.

"Marc and William are shining examples of the power individuals have to change the lives of children by becoming adoptive parents," said Rothman. "The importance of providing children with the essentials — including a supportive family — cannot be emphasized enough. For too long, too many children have been denied permanent homes by limiting the definition of a family. I am pleased to help illustrate the role that non-traditional families can and should play in bringing up the next generation."

There are an estimated 500,000 children in foster care in the United States, 130,000 of who are waiting to be adopted. In New Jersey alone, 4,600 children are waiting for a family to welcome them into their homes and lives permanently.

"Every child deserves a loving, safe, and happy home. That's why educating the public through participating in National Adoption Month is so critical," said Rep. Rothman.

In addition to participating in Voice for Adoption's Portrait Project, Rothman is a co-sponsor of the Every Child Deserves a Family Act (H.R. 3827). If enacted, the measure would prohibit any entity that receives Federal adoption or child welfare funding from denying or delaying adoptions or foster care placements based solely on the prospective

parents' marital status or sexual orientation.

Teaneck's Lloyd-Freid family, L to R: Carmen, Jesus, Lisa, Marc, Josiah, Bart, Tyrone and Bill.

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