<u>**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**</u>

October 1, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We appreciate the Department's response to our letter dated May 19, 2021. We are grateful that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is committed to "vigorously securing the extradition and prosecution of individuals who violate our law by absconding with a child to a foreign country or unlawfully retaining a child abroad." Your response further detailed trainings and outreach conducted to raise awareness of international parental child abduction (IPCA) and your efforts to educate federal, state, local, and tribal officials about this heinous crime.

It has been almost thirty years since Congress first passed the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act (IPKCA), making it a federal offense to abduct and remove a child to a foreign country. As a matter of Congressional oversight and legislative consideration we would like to learn more about extradition and prosecution in IPCA cases, as well as DOJ efforts to train its employees and to educate the broader justice system about IPCA. Your responses will help us as we develop legislation to improve our nation's response to IPCA crimes.

First, we would like to get additional information regarding the scope of extradition and prosecution of cases under the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act (IPKCA). We are grateful for the work of our nation's U.S. Attorneys and career prosecutors to hold individuals accountable for IPCA. To help us better understand the use of extradition and prosecution in IPKCA, we would ask you to please provide the following information:

1. How many individuals have been charged under the IPKCA each year from 2010-2020?

2. In how many cases has an extradition request been formally presented to a foreign government each year from 2010-2020? In how many of those cases was the individual successfully extradited to the United States?

3. How many individuals were convicted or pleaded guilty under the IPKCA each year from 2010-2020? Please provide a separate number of convictions and guilty pleas.

4. What was the average sentence imposed on those convicted or who plead guilty under IPKCA each year from 2010-2020? Please provide a separate average for convictions and for guilty pleas.

5. In how many of the cases prosecuted each year from 2010-2020 was the abducted child or children successfully returned to the left-behind parent?

We would also like to learn more detail about the work being done by the Department to train federal prosecutors and law enforcement to prevent and prosecute IPCA, as well as educate foreign, state, local, and tribal officials. To help us better understand your efforts, please provide answers to the following questions:
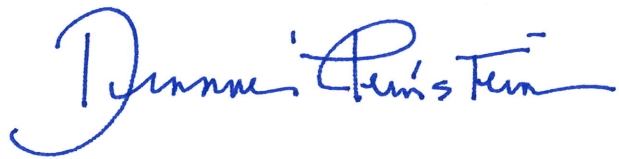
1. Which countries have participated in the *Executive Symposia on Child Exploitation, Human Trafficking, and Model Laws*? How much of the programming is focused on IPCA? Does the Department have adequate funding to conduct additional symposia and address the IPCA crisis?

2. You provided several examples of presentations and trainings provided to DOJ employees and federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers and prosecutors. Since these trainings appear to have occurred in 2017 and 2018, are there additional trainings planned for 2021 and beyond to raise awareness of resources and authorities to combat IPCA? Will the Department incorporate more voices from left-behind parents into these trainings?

3. What efforts are being taken to expand outreach and education to civil courts and attorneys to help identify high-risk cases and prevent abduction from occurring?

We appreciate your continued dialogue on this critical issue. IPCA is a tragic crime, and we thank you for your work to prevent and prosecute cases of IPCA. We look forward to your prompt response to our inquiries and ongoing engagement on this issue.

Sincerely,

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator