

My son Wayne Kosaku Sawyer was kidnapped from the U.S. to Japan in December 2008. In 2009, I became an officer of the parents' organization Global Future, which has successfully, safely and legally, brought five kidnapped children back to their lawful homes in the United States. I worked in the effort to return the two Mendoza children from South Korea to their home in New Jersey, in 2010.

In 2011, just in time for Christmas, we achieved the safe and legal return of Karina Garcia from Japan to Milwaukee Wisconsin. Karina is the only kidnapped American citizen child ever returned from Japan to the United States by via the U.S. legal system.

Over the past two years, Global Future has assisted in bringing three other children home, from Asia, Europe and South America. We also participated in a successfully prevention case in 2013.

We contributed language and analysis of all legislation on the issue pertaining to Japan.

In addition to legislative successes, in 2010, 22 U.S. Senators signed a letter to the President about the issue of international child abduction, at Global Future's request.

In a parents' group meeting with then-Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, I proposed the idea (thereafter implemented) that DOS contact the kidnapped American citizen children in Japan when their cases 'age out' when they turn 18, to let them know that their family in the U.S. has been looking for them, and that they can avail themselves of their families and educational opportunities in America.

Over the years, we have submitted testimony and documents for the record in approximately 30 hearings, spanning the variety of committees that interface with the issue or with the U.S.-Japan relationship.

In 2011, I participated in a GAO study on the role of airlines in international child abductions.