

**From:** Karen Caffrey <kdcaffrey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2014 8:20 AM  
**To:** PHC Testimony  
**Subject:** HB 5144 - An Act Concerning Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adopted Persons  
**Attachments:** OBC letter.pdf

Attached please find a letter from Jennifer Lahl, Founder and President, The Center for Bioethics and Culture Network in support of the reference bill.

...for a human future.

THE CENTER FOR  
BIOETHICS AND  
CULTURE NETWORK

I am a pediatric nurse with two decades of nursing experience and the producer of three documentary films on third-party reproduction: *Eggsplotation*, *Anonymous Father's Day*, and *Breeders: A Subclass of Women?* I also have a graduate degree in Bioethics.

What we know about human nature is that biology matters. Information about family, family history, genetic origins and medical history are important details to the wholeness and wellness of the individual. People born by stranger assisted reproduction (donated or sold sperm and/or eggs) are often denied this information and are repeatedly told, "It doesn't matter."

Much of what we are seeing today in the secrets and anonymity of third-party reproduction is here because of the secrets and withholding of information that came about in the adoption industry. "It doesn't matter. It's not important. What matters is that you were loved and wanted." But the evidence doesn't bear this out. Studies show that secrets are not good for the well-being of those lied to. And that biological information about mothers and fathers and siblings is not only important but relevant in the age of genetic medicine.

No person should be denied the truth about their origins, their conception and birth story. And it is a great injustice of the state or the industry to withhold this very personal information from individuals.

Birth certificates should be open and available to the adoptee.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lahl  
President  
The Center for Bioethics and Culture Network