

## **Judiciary Committee**

**SUPPORT FOR S.B. NO. 1067: AN ACT CONCERNING A BIOLOGICAL PARENT'S ACCESS TO CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN CASES INVOLVING A VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.**

**Testimony of John F. Suggs  
President and Founder  
Family Orchard, LLC**

**March 23, 2015**

Good morning Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is John F. Suggs and I am the President and Founder of Family Orchard, LLC a professional forensic genealogist organization dedicated to the search and reunification of adult adoptees and their birth family members.

Today you have before you the unique opportunity to correct a long overdue injustice that has negatively impacted birth mothers and fathers who have already experienced one, if not the most, difficult decisions of their entire lives: the voluntarily termination of their parental rights to their child.

In my work, I regularly see the lifelong pain and suffering that accompanies a birth parents decision to relinquish their child. It is something no one ever truly "gets over". SB 1067 will restore to these men and women the right to legally obtain copies of the documents that they had signed as part of that painful decision and relinquishment.

It bears noting that, inasmuch as we live in a culture where a person is routinely required to be given copies of any contracts, rental agreements, leases, mortgages, etc. that they have signed it is unconscionable that birth parents are still denied this basic right.

It is long past time that we correct this wrong and I urge you to vote in favor of SB 1067.

Thank you for your consideration.

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