

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to you as the Founder/President for Saving Our Sisters - SOS, Incorporated. Saving Our Sisters - SOS *strongly* supports Senate Bill 972, the Act Concerning Access to Original Birth Records by Adult Adopted Persons.

SOS' mission is to support all members of expectant families considering adoption. We are committed to helping them make fully informed decisions based on information that so many other families have learned too late. We are dedicated to ensuring that they avoid applying a permanent solution to a temporary crisis based on partial or misinformation.

SOS is dedicated to direct action and education regarding the facts of the adoption process and preservation of biological families whenever possible. This may include assisting expectant and new parents by locating resources, explaining the long and short term effects of adoption separation on everyone in the natural family, explaining the lifelong effects of trauma their infant will suffer if exposed to maternal separation, and connecting them with a local support person and mentor. SOS welcomes volunteers, donations and donors to join us in empowering and preserving families by preventing unnecessary adoptions and advocating for fair and ethical adoption laws, policies and practices.

Mothers who have connected with SOS over the last 8 years who are considering relinquishing infants for adoption *are not* made fully aware of the sealing of their child's original birth certificate and all the implications this will have on their child as they grow to be an adult. There is most definitely never a 'guarantee' of 'privacy' and in fact there are promised 'openness' and that their family will have a relationship with the adoptee through 'open adoption'.

Consistent with the mission and goals of Saving Our Sisters - SOS of full disclosure and transparency in adoption, we support Senate Bill 972. Please feel free to share this letter with your colleagues. I encourage them to follow your leadership and to move these bills forward.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further help in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Renee Gelin, Founder/President  
(727) 744-6468

**Saving *Our* Sisters - SOS, Incorporated**  
**A family preservation *first* organization.**