



February 20, 2020

Chairwoman Nancy Barto
Health and Human Services Committee
Arizona House of Representatives

Chairman Luke Clippinger
Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Chairman John Lesch
Judicial Finance and Civil Law Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Co-Chair Steve Cassano
Planning and Development Committee
Connecticut Senate

Co-Chair Cristin McCarthy Vahey
Planning and Development Committee
Connecticut House of Representatives

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate

Chairman Warren Limmer
Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and
Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate

Speaker Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the House
Massachusetts House of Representatives

Dear Honorable Chairpersons and Massachusetts House Speaker DeLeo:

We are state and national adoptee rights organizations as well as individuals and allies who are either adoptees themselves or impacted by adoption in a direct way. A bill that will restore a right once provided to all adult adopted people in this country is now pending in your committee or chamber. **Indeed, within a span of 24 hours this week, committees in three different states will hear such bills: Arizona (HB2600), Connecticut (SB113), and Maryland (HB1039).**

It is no coincidence that these bills are making their way through state legislatures across the country, from Maryland, Massachusetts, and Connecticut in the East, Mississippi in the South, Minnesota in the Midwest, and Arizona in the West/Southwest. It is past time for this legislation. It is past time to restore a right **every person** in the United States once had: to request and obtain, as adults, a copy of their own original birth certificate, free from government restrictions and alterations, and free from the stigma and humiliation of enforced permanent secrecy.

These bills are truly bipartisan and have overwhelming support from colleagues and constituents. Primary sponsors of these bills are Republicans, Democrats, liberals,

conservatives, centrists, and libertarians. Yet they have one thing in common: they “get” what it means to have your identity treated like a state secret. They get what it means to be shamed as an adult when others maintain control over your own personal vital record. They get that these bills will positively impact hundreds of thousands of constituents, whether they are adoptees, adoptive parents, birthparents, descendants, or any of the 150 million people impacted by adoption.

Many of the organizations and individuals listed below are already active in your state and working on these bills, and many are separately providing written support or testimony in your upcoming committee hearings. Please listen to these individuals and organizations.

We ask for your strong support for these bills. We ask that you and your colleagues vote to move these bills favorably toward enactment and to do what we have consistently asked of every legislator across the country: #GetItRight and #MakeItEqual. Adopted people deserve no less.

Best regards,

ADOPTees UNITED INC.

AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS

CAPITOL COALITION FOR ADOPTEE RIGHTS

MARYLAND ADOPTEE RIGHTS

ACCESS MARYLAND

HERITAGE ARIZONA

ACCESS MASSACHUSETTS

MINNESOTA COALITION FOR ADOPTION REFORM

BASTARD NATION: THE ADOPTEE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

NATIONAL CENTER ON ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY

CONCERNED UNITED BIRTH PARENTS

ADOPTEE RIGHTS LAW CENTER PLLC

ADOPTEES FOR JUSTICE

TEXAS ADOPTEE RIGHTS COALITION

NEW YORK ADOPTEE RIGHTS COALITION

PEOPLE FOR ETHICAL ADOPTION REFORM (PEAR)

ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER FAMILY COALITION OF NEW YORK (AFFCNY)

POST-ADOPTION CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND RESOURCES (PACER)

ADOPTION CONCERNS TRIANGLE

MISSOURI OPEN

C2ADOPT

ADOPTION HEALING, INC.

MICHIGAN OPEN ACCESS

CALIFORNIA OPEN

EQUALITY4ADOPTEES

MICHIGAN ADOPTEE COLLABORATIVE

NPE FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP

THE GOOD ADOPTEE | JMTC THEATRE

GREATER CLEVELAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

CANADA OPEN

ADOPTEE RIGHTS AUSTRALIA INC

ADOPTIEZAKEN & FAMILIERECT (NETHERLANDS)

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and those impacted by adoption

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