

END THE SECRECY OF OUR OWN BIRTH RECORDS

HB 5148 / Rep. Kristian Grant
HB 5149 / Rep. Patrick Outman

Senate Packet

February 15, 2024

MI
Adoptees



SPONSORS

HB5148

Representative
Kristian Grant

HB5149

Representative
Patrick Outman

**MARC COALITION
PARTNERS**



Initial

- **Cover letter**
- **Illustration: Current Law and Complex Structure**
- **Illustration: How HB5148/HB5149 would work if enacted**
- **Illustration: How current Michigan law incentivizes the use of direct-to-consumer DNA testing**

Testimony in Support (*Subject to availability and time*)

- **Ned Andree**
Michigan-born adoptee, teacher, community organizer
- **Tiana Hawver**
Michigan-born adoptee, communications manager for Housing Kent.
- **Gregory Luce**
Adoptee, attorney, national expert on adoptee birth record and citizenship issues.
- **Katie Page Sander**
Adoptive parent, board member of Michigan Federation for Children & Families
- **Brooke Van Prooyen**
Birthmother, program coordinator at Adoptive Family Support Network
(see *Individual Letters of Support* section)

Supporting Organizations (alphabetical)

* core partner of the Michigan Adoptee Rights Coalition / ‡ Michigan-based organization

Adoptee Advocates of Michigan *‡

Adoptee Rights Law Center *

Adoptee Voices

Adoption & Foster Family Coalition of New York

**Adoptive Family Support Network/DA Blodgett
St. John's** ‡

American Academy of Adoption & ART Attorneys

American Adoption Congress

Arbor Circle ‡

Bastard Nation: The Adoptee Rights Organization

Bridge Street Ministries ‡

Capitol Coalition for Adoptee Rights

Catholic Mothers for Truth & Transparency

...continued

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Concerned United Birthparents

Families Rising (formerly NACAC)

Find Self Counseling

Hands Across the Water †

Louisiana Coalition for Adoption Reform

Michigan Adoptee Collaborative * †

Michigan Federation for Children & Families †

Minnesota Coalition for Adoption Reform

Mothers for Open Records Everywhere

National Center on Adoption and Permanency

New England Adoptee Rights Coalition

New York Adoptee Rights Coalition

Saving Our Sisters

Texas Adoptee Rights Coalition

Transitions Therapy †

Tree Town Therapy, PLLC †

Individual Letters of Support:

Roberta Beavers, birth mother, former Maine legislator, victim/survivor of rape

Lisa Nicole Johnston, birth mother, victim survivor of rape, adoptee rights advocate.

Brooke Van Prooyen, birth mother who provided testimony for Family Children and Seniors Committee hearing.

Pamela Lynn, adoptee conceived of rape, adoptee rights advocate

Monica Sparks, Kent County Commissioner District 12 joint letter with **Jessica Tyson**, Kentwood City Commissioner Ward 2, (twin adoptees)

Liz DeBetta, PhD, author, adoption studies scholar, UM

Emily Helder, scholar, author, adoption researcher, Hope College

Sarah C. Williams, adoptive mother / adoptee advocate

Teresa Weatherall Neal, former superintendent, Grand Rapids Public Schools

Kim Gates, Kent County Democratic Party Chair

Noorain F. Khan, President, Girl Scouts USA, Senior Advisor, Ford Foundation. Michigander, human rights/justice attorney

February 14th, 2024

RE: HB5148 (Grant) and HB5149 (Outman)

Dear Senator Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

The Michigan Adoptee Rights Coalition (MARC) is the lead Michigan advocacy coalition on the issue of adoptee birth record equity in the state. On behalf of MARC and its member organizations, we request a DO PASS recommendation for HB5148 (Rep. Grant) and HB5149 (Rep. Outman). These bills will restore a right all Michigan-born adopted people once had: the right to request and obtain, as an adult, a copy of your own original birth certificate. In doing so, the bills not only simplify and modernize the process adult adopted people use when requesting their own vital records, the bills will also align Michigan with fifteen other states that have already enacted similar laws.

This issue has strong, broad, and bipartisan support from legislators and from state and national organizations. As the attached hearing packet and support letters demonstrate, a diverse range of respected state and national organizations support HB5148/HB5149. These organizations collectively represent the interests of millions of people impacted by adoption, including adoptees, adoptive parents, birthparents, and adoption professionals.

On behalf of all the supporting organizations, constituents, individuals, allies, and adopted people, we request a **DO PASS** recommendation from the committee.

Erica Curry Van Ee
MICHIGAN ADOPTEE COLLABORATIVE

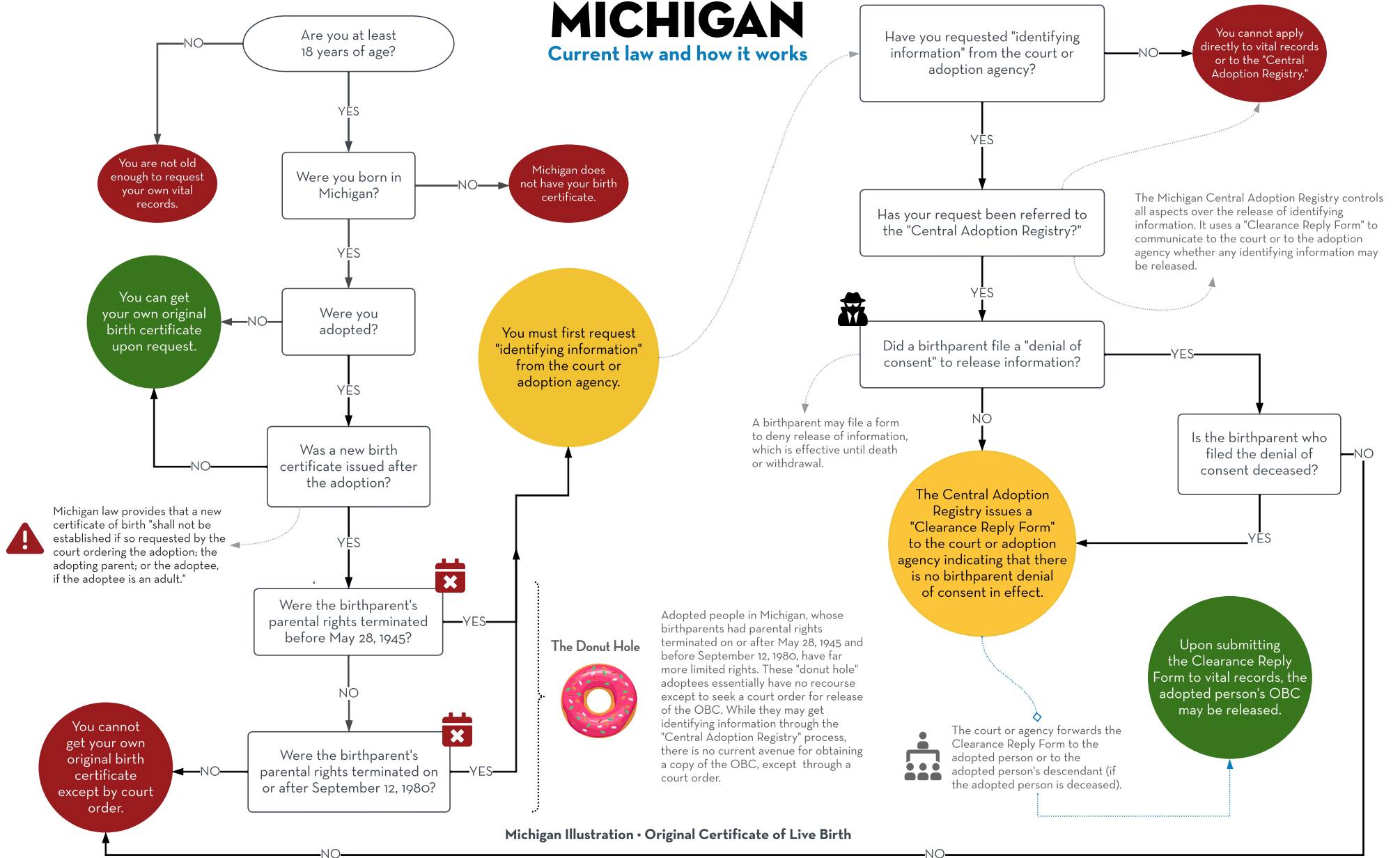
Valerie Lemieux
ADOPTEE ADVOCATES OF MICHIGAN

Gregory D. Luce
ADOPTEE RIGHTS LAW CENTER



MICHIGAN

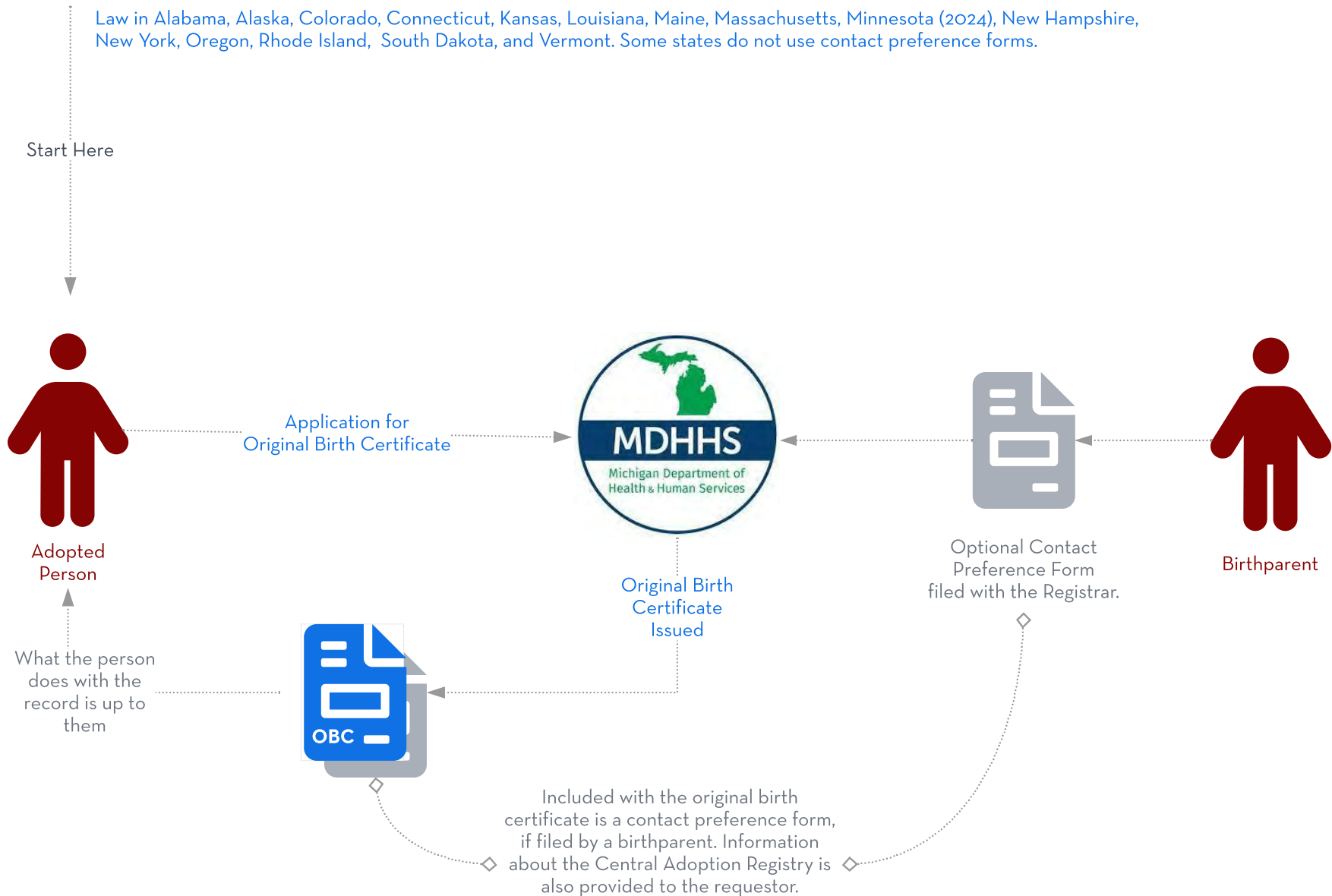
Current law and how it works



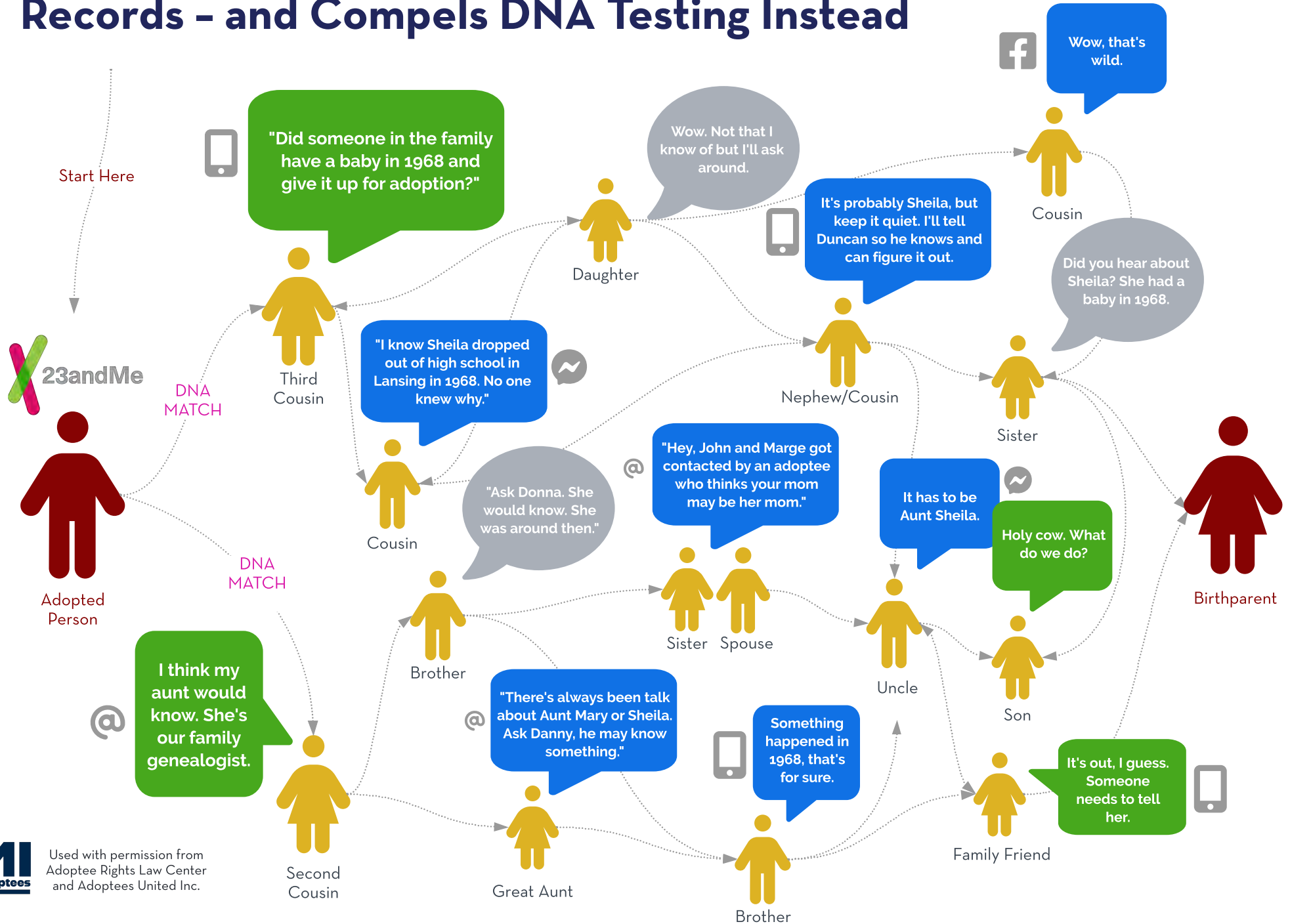
When Adult Adopted People Have the Right to Request and Obtain their Own Birth Records

Michigan HB5148/5149

Law in Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota (2024), New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Vermont. Some states do not use contact preference forms.



When Michigan Denies Adoptees Their Own Birth Records - and Compels DNA Testing Instead



Used with permission from Adoptee Rights Law Center and Adoptees United Inc.



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



February 14, 2024

The Honorable Stephanie Chang
Chair, Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety
Michigan State Senate
Binsfeld Office Building, Room 1200
201 Townsend St
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: FAVORABLE REPORT ON HB5148/HB5149

Dear Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee:

We are leaders of coalitions in the diverse states and regions of New England, Texas, New York, Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, and the District of Columbia, each of which has been involved with efforts to change the law in those states to provide equality for all adopted people. Our states and regions are vastly different—politically, culturally, and demographically. Yet legislators in these states and others, whether Democrat or Republican, conservative or liberal, have understood a very basic and fundamental tenet: that birth record equality for all adult adopted people is a nonpartisan issue that deserves legislative action and support. As a result, adult adopted people in fifteen states today, including New York, Louisiana, Vermont, Massachusetts, South Dakota, and Minnesota, have a right to request and obtain copies of their own birth records, simply by applying for them at the department of health.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of adult adoptees we represent—many of whom may have been born in Michigan but now reside in our regions—we request a favorable report from the committee on HB5148/HB5149. We have

witnessed the positive outcome of legislation that recognizes and restores the ability of adults to obtain their own documented truths. We hope that Michigan similarly recognizes this, and changes its law so that all Michigan-born adopted people can do what more than 100,000 adoptees across the country have already done: apply for and obtain their own original birth certificates through a simple and straightforward request.

Best regards,

NEW YORK ADOPTEE RIGHTS COALITION

Annette O'Connell (New York)

Spokesperson

TEXAS ADOPTEE RIGHTS COALITION

Shawna Hodgson (Texas)

Spokesperson

NEW ENGLAND ADOPTEE RIGHTS COALITION

Elle Lane (New England)

Spokesperson

GEORGIA ALLIANCE FOR ADOPTEE RIGHTS

Courtney Humbaugh and Jamie Weiss (Georgia)

Co-Founders

CAPITOL COALITION FOR ADOPTEE RIGHTS

Susie Stricker (Maryland, Virginia, DC)

Spokesperson

MINNESOTA COALITION FOR ADOPTION REFORM

Penelope Needham and Joe Duea (Minnesota)

Spokespersons

ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER FAMILY COALITION OF NEW YORK

Claudia Corrigan D'Arcy

Associate Executive Director of Communications

cc: Rep. Kristian Grant
Rep. Pat Outman



The Honorable Stephanie Chang
Chair, Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety
Michigan State Senate
Binsfeld Office Building, Room 1200
201 Townsend St
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support HB5148 / HB5149

February 13, 2024

Senator Chang,

This statement is furnished to express support by the [American Adoption Congress](#) for Michigan [HB5148](#) / [HB5149](#) (respectively introduced by Representatives Grant and Outman). When enacted, this vital human and civil rights, tie-bar proposal will:

- **Restore unrestricted access** to original birth certificates (OBC) for all adult adopted persons.
- **Establish** access for legal representatives and direct descendants of deceased adopted persons.
- **Dismantle** Michigan's discriminatory, byzantine, and prohibitive records request system.

Adults of Michigan have the legal right to obtain their original birth certificate, unless they are adopted. The American Adoption Congress feels that now Michigan is poised to join the fifteen other states with unrestricted access policy. **This belief is consistent with our [formal legislative policy](#) for clean adoption reform.**

Further, we expect that the proper reform in Michigan will help lead other states to enact proper reform. The time is now. The right to know one's identity is a human right that should not be incrementally bestowed or denied to any American.

Birth parents were not promised lifelong anonymity from the daughters and sons they surrendered for adoption. There is no law that legally guarantees anonymity to birth parents or birth families. These, and the various other arguments offered by opponents to reform have been thoroughly refuted with constructive results in other states.

The American Adoption Congress began in 1978. The group officially formed the American Adoption Congress in 1980 with the goal of championing adoptee rights, with emphasis on gaining universal access to original birth certificates for adoptees. The AAC incorporated in 1981 and has been a 501(c)(3), registered in the state of Missouri, since 1982.

The American Adoption Congress is an allied advocate to the [Michigan Adoptee Rights Coalition](#).

We hope this statement may assist and we thank you for your efforts to restore adoptee equality in The Great Lakes State.

Respectfully,

Tim

Tim Monti-Wohlpart
American Adoption Congress
National Legislative Chair

*.cc Rep. Kristian Grant and Rep. Pat Outman
.cc Michigan Adoptee Rights Coalition*



620 S. Capitol Avenue, Suite 325 • Lansing MI 48933

Voice-to-email (517) 485-8552

Janet Reynolds Snyder, MBA, Executive Director

www.michfed.org

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Jenny Crichton, GMS, Director of Member Relations & Events: jenny@michfed.org

November 7, 2023

Dear Chair Young and Members of the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee:

The Michigan Federation for Children and Families (the Federation) supports HB 5148 and HB 5149, which would restore the right of all Michigan-born adoptees to request and obtain their own original birth certificate. Many states across the country have enacted similar laws with success. Adoption agencies in Michigan have found that adult adoptees desire to obtain their original birth certificate, which should be a fundamental right of every citizen.

The Federation is a statewide nonprofit association whose 60 member agencies, all private nonprofit community-based organizations, work through contract with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to provide supportive services to children and their families throughout all 83 counties in Michigan. These organizations are mission driven, playing a vital role in providing services and positive outcomes for the overall health and well-being of children and their families in Michigan communities. Nearly 100% of family preservation, adoption, and residential treatment services and 55% of foster care services and an array of behavioral health, clinical and in-home services are provided by nonprofit agencies in Michigan.

For more than 50 years, the Federation has provided a collective and expert voice on behalf of its members in working alongside state department and legislative leaders, with shared responsibility, to continuously help families in Michigan communities lead lives of greater health and opportunity.

The mission of the Federation is to influence public policy and practice in support of the highest quality services to children and families. Federation member agencies envision communities where all children, youth and families thrive. To achieve successful outcomes for children and their families, strong relationships between the private agencies and the public agency are vital.

Adoptees, birthparents, adoptive parents, and adoption professionals have supported and recognized the positive impact of HB 5148 and HB 5149. The proposed legislation would simplify the current complex and outdated law, streamline the government and agency processes, and recognize the right for everyone to obtain their own vital records. As the committee considers adopting these bills, we ask that you also pay attention to the staff and financial resources needed for timely processing of the requests for records. We appreciate your dedication to this issue and hope that the legislation receives the attention and support it deserves on behalf of Michigan's children and families statewide.

Thank you for considering our support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet Reynolds Snyder".

Janet Reynolds Snyder, MBA, Executive Director

Michigan Federation for Children and Families

517-485-8552 office

734-476-3845 cell

FULL MEMBERS

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of Northwestern Michigan
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St. Vincent Catholic Charities
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Spaulding for Children
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Starr Commonwealth
Teaching Family Homes of Upper
Michigan
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Upper Peninsula Family Solutions
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Wedgwood Christian Services
Wellspring Lutheran Services
West Michigan Partnership for Children
Whaley Children's Center
Youth Guidance Foster Care & Adoption

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan
Fostering Forward Michigan
Michigan CASA, Inc.
Michigan State University School
of Social Work



M.O.R.E.



FIRST MOTHER FORUM

Dear Senators:

Individually, collectively, and officially we represent the voices of hundreds of thousands of parents who surrendered children for adoption, including mothers who surrendered children as a result of sexual assault. We state **unequivocally and without reservation** that Michigan HB5148/HB5149 are appropriate bills and do not infringe on any rights allegedly promised to us as parents. Such alleged promises were often false and were also frequently used as coercive tactics to secure the surrender of our children.

Let us be clear: we are the organized and recognized voices of parents who surrendered children to adoption in the United States, including Michigan. We reject opposition from organizations whose missions do not involve our complex and specific lived experiences. We reject their attempts to speak for us, speak about us, and speak without us. We are the experienced stakeholders on this issue and have for decades striven to be heard. We ask that you not only hear us but also reject further attempts to silence us.

Deborah Meyers, President
CONCERNED UNITED BIRTHPARENTS
concernedunitedbirthparents.org

Renee Gelin, Founder/President
SAVING OUR SISTERS
savingoursistersadoption.org

Karen Wilson-Buterbaugh
MOTHERS FOR OPEN RECORDS EVERYWHERE
babyscoopera.com

Lorraine Dusky and Jane Edwards
FIRST MOTHER FORUM
firstmotherforum.com

Eileen (Woebse) McQuade, Co-Founder
CATHOLIC MOTHERS FOR TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY
catholicmothersfortruth.org



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859 Riverside Drive, #9
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(317) 407-8422
adoptionART.org

November 7, 2023

Rep. Kristian Grant and Rep. Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: HB5148 and HB5149

Dear Representative Grant and Representative Outman:

On behalf of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (“AAAA”), we are writing to express support for your recently filed HB5148 and HB5149.

The Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys is a national organization dedicated to the competent and ethical practice of adoption and assisted reproduction law, and advocates for the improvement of adoption laws and practices. It plays a leading role in the development of laws, policies, and practices designed to benefit the lives of all members of the adoption triad and in the advancement of a better understanding of the meaning and importance of adoption for society in general.

In January 2018, AAAA approved a resolution that provides in part:

The Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys supports the inherent rights of adult adopted persons, regardless of when their adoption occurred, to their personal biological family information and to have access to their:

- 1. original birth certificates;
- 2. agency records which relate to them and their biological family; and
- 3. court records of their adoption

Consistent with AAAA’s resolution, which also commits to taking action to promote the revision of laws and policies governing the rights of adopted persons to information regarding their personal history, AAAA supports HB5148 and HB5149. We urge the Michigan House of Representatives to move this bill forward.

If we can be of assistance in advocating for this bill before any committees, we are happy to assist in arranging for local AAAA Fellows to testify on behalf of our Academy.

Respectfully,

Margaret Swain, Esq.
AAAA President

Debra E. Guston, Esq.
AAAA Adoption Director



February 14, 2024

Rep. Kristian Grant
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Rep. Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Re: Support for Michigan HB5148 and HB5149

To: Reps. Grant and Outman:

The National Center on Adoption and Permanency (NCAP) is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to improving laws, policies and practices – based on the best available research and experience – so that they enable all children and their families to succeed. This correspondence, in strong support of HB5148 and HB5149, is intended to explain the state of professional knowledge on a key issue in our field: the availability (or lack thereof) of original birth certificates to adopted persons once they reach the age of majority.

I will keep this letter brief, as I'm sure you already have received a great amount of information from all sides. NCAP can provide any additional data you might want, and would be delighted to address any questions you may encounter.

In short, research consistently shows that sealed birth certificates are an anachronism born of society's desire to protect the reputations of adoptees and their adoptive families at a time when unwed mothers were severely stigmatized and the children born to them were denigrated as "bastards." Indeed, birth certificates were often stamped with the word "illegitimate." Over time, the cultural rationale has shifted to maintaining the anonymity of birth mothers.

- Nearly all available evidence indicates that birth mothers – while sometimes wanting privacy in their families or not wanting their situations public – overwhelmingly desire some level of contact with or knowledge about the children they bore; that they favor adoptee access to their birth certificates (or, at least, do not oppose it); and, contrary to popular perception, that they were *not* legally assured of anonymity.
- A growing number of states have enacted laws such as the one you are considering, granting adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates – with *none* of the negative consequences that critics had predicted.
- The unambiguous conclusion from a growing body of research is that greater knowledge about their histories (biological and personal) yields better outcomes for adoptees and their families. That is why, in both professional practice and new statutes throughout the U.S., the singular trend is toward increased disclosure.
- A few adoption practitioners, and organizations representing them, still advocate for closure – sometimes by confusing "anonymity" and "privacy" or by using discredited data on a supposed "link" with abortion – but these practitioners represent a small and shrinking minority in the field.

I hope these comments are useful as you plan for passage of HB5148 and HB5149 – which, based on both the evidence and long experience, NCAP strongly supports. Please feel free to contact me at apertman@ncap.us.org or 617-332-8944 if you have questions or need more information. Thank you for your attention and your important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Pertman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Adam Pertman, President
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
www.ncap-us.org



Bastard Nation: the Adoptee Rights Organization
P.O. Box 4607
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bastardnation3@gmail.com

February 14, 2024

Rep. Kristian Grant
Rep. Pat Outman
Anderson House Office Building 1
24 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Letter of Support for HB5148 and HB5149

Dear Rep. Grant and Rep Outman:

Bastard Nation: the Adoptee Rights Organization is the largest adoptee civil rights organization in the United States. We support only full unrestricted access for all adopted persons to their original birth certificates (OBC) and related documents.

We support HB5148 a “clean bill” that allows all Michigan-born adoptees, their descendants or legal representatives to obtain the adoptee's original birth certificate without restrictions or conditions upon request at the age of 18, The bill contains a voluntarily optional Contact Preference Form which allows biological parents to record if they would like contact, but does not control the release of the OBC.

We support HB5149 which eliminates current court and Central Adoption Registry control over the release of the OBC. It retains biological parent denial of identifying information requests already on file, BUT that request does not restrict OBC access. No release vetoes can be filed after July 1, 2024.

These bills are tie-barred and neither bill can be enacted into law without the enactment of the other.

Civil Rights, Privacy, and the Balance of Rights

HB5148 and HB5149 are not about search and reunion, though search and reunion can result. The bill is about civil rights.

We often hear the term “balance of rights” in the OBC debate. That can be a legitimate debate in cases where an actual conflict of rights among parties exists. In the case of OBC rights, however the only rights involved are those of tens of thousands adopted Michiganders who are legally barred from obtaining the genuine unaltered record of their birth. Barred from obtaining a public record—an intimate public record—that is about them and their origins. Barred from obtaining a public record with their name on it. These thousands of people are not abstracts. The adopted are everywhere. You probably know some who will personally benefit from passage of HB5148 and HB5149: family members, co-workers, friends, neighbors, constituents who want—and need—you to support them.

Rights and interests are not equal. A few birthparents might argue a “right” to birthparent anonymity, but courts have ruled that there no such right, (see below). Third parties with their own political and social agendas might claim an “interest” in keeping OBCs out of the hands of adoptees, but that is far from a right—only an opinion. “Rights” trump “interests.”

The idea that a person can be barred from the true record of their birth due to the circumstances of their birth or the status of their family is absurd and unjust. The Adopted and the Not Adopted have an absolute right to obtain the official state record of their own birth and no third party—parent or not—has the “right” or the standing to legally bar that access. Parental rights of birthparents were voluntarily relinquished years ago or were terminated by a court. After termination, those parents had no say in the disposition of the child or the records. Even if there were such a parental “right” to bar one’s adult offspring from obtaining their birth certificate, it would not exist in the case of adoption.

Adoption Privacy Overview

Unrestricted OBC access is not a “privacy” or “birthparent confidentiality” issue. “Privacy” “confidentiality,” and “anonymity” are not synonymous either legally or linguistically. “Anonymity” is a myth perpetuated by special interests that for decades have profited off of economic distress and society-induced shame and family crisis. In many cases, adoption is a permanent solution to a temporary problem that has not only individual but generational consequences.

There is no evidence in any state that records were sealed to “protect” the reputation or “privacy” of biological parents who relinquished children for adoption. On the contrary, records were sealed to cover coercive child acquisition practices by adoption agencies, black and gray market baby dealers, exploitative assembly line maternity homes, and other corrupt systems. Numerous historical and legal researchers and writers have shown that OBCs were never intended to be sealed in perpetuity from individual adoptees as adults. At “best” sealed OBCs were billed as a way to protect the reputations of “bastard children” (not adults) and to protect adoptive families from birthparent and stranger interference; in other words to “protect the integrity of the adoptive family.” These documents were first sealed from the public, then the parties to the adoption, and eventually to adopted people

themselves. What was once an outlier practice has now been normalized through a mix of myth and “tradition” and treated like “the way it's always been.”

Courts, however, have ruled that adoption anonymity does not exist. (*Doe v Sundquist*, et. al., 943 F. Supp. 886, 893-94 (M.D. Tenn. 1996) and *Does v. State of Oregon*, 164 Or. App. 543, 993 P.2d 833, 834 (1999). Laws change constantly, and the state, lawyers, social workers, and others were never in a position to promise anonymity in adoption. In the over 60 years of the adoptee equality battle, not one document has been submitted anywhere that promises or guarantees sealed records and an anonymity “right” to birthparents.

Identifying information about surrendering parents often appears in court documents given to adoptive parents who can at any point give that information to the adopted person. (In some states adoptive parents, at the time of the adoption order, can petition the court to keep the record open.) The names of surrendering parents are published in legal ads. Courts can open “sealed records” for “good cause” without birthparent consent or even knowledge. Critically, the OBC is sealed at the time of adoption finalization, not surrender. If a child is not adopted, the record is never sealed. If a child is adopted, but the adoption is overturned or disrupted, the OBC is unsealed. The OBCs of persons with established relationships with biological parents as in stepparent and foster adoptions are also sealed.

The American Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys agrees with this assessment. In a major about face, in 2018 it passed a monumental resolution in support of adoptees’ right to full access to our OBCs court, and agency records.

Privacy and Technology

Today, inexpensive and accessible DNA testing services, and a large network of volunteer “search angels” that locate adoptee government-hidden information, histories, and biological families, has made the traditional “privacy” argument obsolete. The minuscule number of birthparents or professionals who believe that restricted OBC/records access or no access equals adoption anonymity are greatly mistaken. Nearly all successful searches are done without the OBC and other court documents.

Conclusion

OBC access is not about search and reunion. Many adopted people are not interested in pursuing those. Instead, access is about obtaining our state-generated and held document of our birth, something the Not Adopted obtain without a second thought.

There is no state interest in keeping original birth certificates sealed from adult adoptees to which they pertain nor does the state have a right or duty to mediate and oversee the personal relationships of adults. The debate on the release of OBCs to its adopted citizens is a small v large government issue. Small government should win this one.

Adopted people in 14 states have unrestricted access to their OBCs and your neighbor Minnesota will unseal OBCs on July 1, 2024. Not one single negative report about unsealing has been published. Access has been normalized. Adoptees are treated just like the Not Adopted, and like the Not Adopted, no one denies that they have a right to their own birth document.

I've been involved in the adoptee rights movement for 40 years, and Michigan has always been known as a hard state—one of the most difficult in the country for its adoptees to penetrate. Please vote Do Pass on HB5148 and HB5148 as written. It's the right thing to do. Thank you

Yours truly,

Marley E Greiner
Executive Chair

Bastard Nation is dedicated to the recognition of the full human and civil rights of adult adoptees. Toward that end, we advocate the opening to adoptees, upon request at age of majority, of those government documents which pertain to the adopter's historical, genetic, and legal identity, including the unaltered original birth certificate and adoption decree. Bastard Nation asserts that it is the right of people everywhere to have their official original birth records unaltered and free from falsification, and that the adoptive status of any person should not prohibit him or her from choosing to exercise that right. We have reclaimed the badge of bastardy placed on us by those who would attempt to shame us; we see nothing shameful in having been born out of wedlock or in being adopted. Bastard Nation does not support mandated mutual consent registries or intermediary systems in place of unconditional open records, nor any other system that is less than access on demand to the adult adoptee, without condition, and without qualification.



2172 Dean Lake Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

616.451.2021

www.dabsj.org

October 30, 2023

Rep. Kristian Grant
House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Rep. Pat Outman Michigan
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Re: Support for Michigan HB5148 and HB5149

Dear Representative Grant and Representative Outman,

I write in support of HB 5148 and HB 5149 to bring equity to all Michigan adopted people to obtain copies of their original vital records, without discriminatory conditions or restrictions.

Adoptive Family Support Network (AFSN), a service of D.A. Blodgett – St. John's has been providing neutral post-adoption support, education, and advocacy since 1991. AFSN was re-accredited in 2023 under the national Council of Accreditation's (COA) Service Standards for Counseling, Support, and Education. All AFSN staff have lived experience as an adoptee, birth parent, or adoptive parent. The program served nearly 4,000 individuals FY23.

Over my 17 years of service with AFSN, I have answered countless warmline calls every year from people searching for original vital records for themselves or an adopted loved one. Callers are adoptees wanting to find missing pieces of their history and biological identity. They are adoptive parents desperately trying to help their adopted child feel whole. They are birth parents, like me, who want adopted adults to be allowed to speak for themselves.

“What year was the adoption finalized?” should not be the first question we ask to determine a response to what should be every person's right to possess a copy of their own vital records.

Particularly for adopted individuals, being able to integrate their biological birth histories with their adoptive family experiences is necessary for forming a cohesive self. HB 5148 & 5149 will support that healthy identity formation by stopping differential treatment of adult adoptees and their descendants based on nothing more than the date parental rights were terminated.

I welcome any questions and offer my assistance to support HB 5148 and 5149 to modernize outdated laws, streamline the navigation of complex systems, and recognize the need to restore every person's right to their vital records.

Sincerely,

Brooke Van Prooyen, MSW
AFSN, D.A. Blodgett – St. John's
bvanprooyen@dabsj.org



Honorable Members of the Michigan State Legislature,

HB 5148 and HB 5149 together restore the right of Michigan born adult adopted people to request and obtain a single piece of paper: a copy of their own original birth certificate.

I am writing to you both as a professional genealogist and search angel with years of experience and as President of the Louisiana Coalition for Adoption Reform. As the latter, I worked closely with Representative Charles "Chuck" Owen to pass HB 450 now Act 470 which restored rights to adult adopted people in Louisiana to access their own original birth certificate without restrictions. Since Act 470 was passed in 2022, there have been over 1350 applications submitted and processed.

During the legislation in Louisiana this information was informative:

- University of Baltimore, Law Professor Elizabeth Samuels' research into sealed records and surrender papers indicates that records were not closed to protect the biological parents from their offspring. **Surrender of Rights documents signed by birth parents contain no promise of privacy, secrecy, or anonymity.**
- During the legislation in Louisiana, we heard from many mothers, state and national organizations that represent thousands of mothers who have relinquished children and **they support their adult children having access to their original birth certificate without restrictions and hinderances.**

Catholic Mothers for Truth and Transparency

Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)

Saving our Sisters

M.O.R.E. Mothers for Open Records Everywhere

Origins International and Origins America

- **Allowing an adult adopted person to obtain their original birth certificate through the state without restrictions is far more private than DNA registries, contacting dozens of biological relatives to determine their origins or having government officials contacting parents** and if contact may occur, mothers who surrendered children prefer being contacted directly. They do not need nor want government interference in their adult relationships and communications.
- **HB5148 and HB5149 as written, should contact be sought provide for a private discrete one on one communication between two adults** allowing a mother to share any sensitive information regarding the conception whether that be a rape, incest, domestic violence or the like.

As a genealogist who has worked for many years, I can attest to how exposed mothers are via DNA and internet searches. An adopted person without access to their original birth certificate usually turns to DNA seeking information about their origins. They need only spit in a tube and upload to the sites to be connected to biological family members. Once a new unknown match is seen, questions start getting asked around families exposing any incest, rape or domestic violence that the mother experienced.

HB 5148 & HB 5149 protect mothers from losing all agency over their situation otherwise they are subject to DNA and the internet exposing them and their situations publicly.

Additionally, HB4148 and HB4149 provide for an optional contact preference form that does not impact the release of information yet gives opportunity for any mother who wishes to express their preference for contact. If a mother does not want to be contacted, the mother can note that on the form and also provides a space for her to include any information that she believes should be conveyed to the adult adopted person.

In this day and age, any agency or entity handing an adoption should share with the parents considering relinquishment that nearly all adoption has some level of openness as it is considered solid adoption practice for the best interests of the child.

Ethical adoptions are ones in which a mother and father are given access to a fully informed decision which means knowing the long term ramifications, pro/cons, risks and rewards of making an adoption plan for their child.

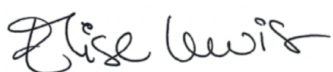
Today all social workers, agencies and entities must fully inform any client considering adoption that that have no capacity for true and forever secrecy- DNA testing and the internet make that impossible.

I encourage you to listen to organizations that represent thousands of mothers, please do not silence their voices as they are urging you to pass HB5148 and HB4149 without restrictive amendments.

I have been witness to the positive outcome of legislation that recognizes and restores the ability of adult adopted people to obtain their own documented truths.

I urge to you pass HB5148 and HB 5149. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Elise Lewis
President, Louisiana Coalition for Adoption Reform
Member of the Association of Professional Genealogists
info@laadoptreform
804-370-6353



October 24, 2023

At Families Rising, we wholeheartedly support Michigan House Bills 5148 and 5149, introduced on October 17, which aim to repeal and simplify Michigan's existing complex and inequitable system, which restricts adult adopted persons from accessing their vital records. These bills represent a significant step towards acknowledging the changing landscape of information access and the rights of adopted individuals.

CEO, Ligia Cushman: "Michigan House Bills 5148 and 5149 are crucial steps towards a more equitable and just system. They recognize that secrecy surrounding adoption is no longer tenable in a world where information flows freely through social media, genetics, and genealogical records. The existing system is complex and inherently discriminatory against adopted people, denying them access to their vital records. These bills are a much-needed reform that empowers adopted individuals to access their original birth records, respecting their inherent right to their history."

Sincerely,

Ligia N. Cushman
CEO
Families Rising
ligiacushman@nacac.org



November 5, 2023

Rep. Kristian Grant
Michigan House of Representatives
House Office Building Anderson
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Rep. Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives Anderson
House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Re: Support for Michigan HB5148 and HB5149

To: Reps. Grant and Outman:

We, the undersigned, founder and facilitators of Adoptee Voices and adoptee-influencers in the adoption community, are writing to show our support for HB5148 and HB5149, in hopes of restoring access for all Michigan adult adopted people to their pre-adoption birth certificates.

In our writing groups for adult adoptees, we regularly witness the long-term emotional ramifications for adoptees that stem from such things as amended/falsified birth certificates and lack of access to fundamental information about their origins that are afforded to all other citizens. Matters of identity can be deeply complicated for adoptees, who typically grow up without genetic mirrors. The closed-adoption mindset that led to locking away original birth records has been proven a failed social experiment. The underlying assumption that the losses of adoption can be erased by pretending they do not exist creates serious downstream problems. Adoptees suffer, and are four times more likely than nonadoptees to attempt suicide, and their families—both by birth and adoption—suffer, as well.

Many states have enacted laws to grant adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates. Adoptees who write with us from these states have discovered the freedom and rest that nonadoptees take for granted—having understanding about their histories and genetic make-up, as well as a more solid sense of themselves and how they fit into the world.

Truth and transparency around adoptee birth records is an important first step in healing the wrongs of closed adoption. As Jennifer Dyan Ghoston, one of the undersigned, has written, “How do you use a document like the amended birth certificate given to an adoptee as a legal representation of the entire truth?” She examined this question in her memoir, drawing on her role in law enforcement for over two decades, to show the healing that came through knowledge and reconnection with her full history.

For these reasons, we fully support the passage of HB 5148 and HB 5149 and thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,



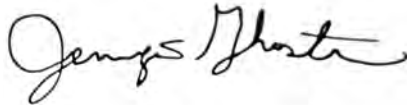
Sara Easterly

Founder, Adoptee Voices

Author of *Adoption Unfiltered: Revelations From Adoptees, Birth Parents, Adoptive Parents, and Allies* AND *Searching for Mom: A Memoir*

Podcast Host of *Adoption Unfiltered*

sara@saraeasterly.com | 206-853-7444



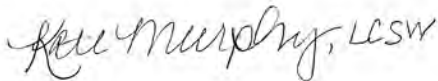
Jennifer Dyan Ghoston

Facilitator, Adoptee Voices

Author of *The Truth So Far: A Detective's Journey to Reunite with her Birth Family*

Podcast Host of *Once Upon a Time...in Adopteeland*

jenniferghoston@gmail.com | 773-600-0234



Kate Murphy, LCSW

Facilitator, Adoptee Voices

Psychotherapist

Author of *The Couch* blog

kate@katemurphytherapy.com | 678-628-7050



Alice Stephens

Facilitator, Adoptee Voices

Co-Founder, Adoptee Literary Festival

Author of *Famous Adopted People* and Editor, *Bloom*

Columnist, *Washington Independent Review of Books*

alicestephenswriter@gmail.com | 301-520-5881

Representative Grant and Representative Outman,

I am writing to show support for HB 5148 and HB5149 which will restore the right of all Michigan adult adopted people access to their pre-adoption birth certificate. I have been an advocate for urban youth for almost 20 years, and my work is rooted in the belief that every person has inherent value and dignity. Access to one's original birth certificate seems to be a basic right that would uphold this value and dignity for adopted individuals. This lack of equality robs adopted persons of their identity, continuing to treat adult adopted persons as perpetual children without respect and dignity.

My work is also rooted in helping create thriving communities, and denying adopted individuals this basic right not only negatively impacts them, but the community around them. Allowing individuals to have access to their origin story is vital to creating thriving communities for everyone.

Once again, we fully support the passage of HB 5148 and HB 5149.

Sincerely,

Ryan Waalkes

Executive Director, Bridge Street Ministries

Ryan@bsmgr.org

616-340-6156





November 2, 2023

Rep. Kristian Grant
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Rep. Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Re: Support for Michigan HB5148 and HB5149

Dear Reps. Grant and Outman:

Please accept this letter in support of Michigan HB5148 and HB5149 which will restore the right of all Michigan adult adopted people access to their pre-adoption birth certificate.

Sealed birth certificates reflect an outdated practice intended to protect the reputations of adoptees and their adoptive families at a time when unwed mothers were stigmatized and the children born to them denigrated. Times change and practices should change to reflect such changes.

Access to one's original birth certificate, the government document that records one's birth is a fundamental right of every citizen, though it is a right that is not given to all Michigan adopted people. This lack of equality robs adopted persons of their identity, continuing to treat adult adopted persons as perpetual children without respect and dignity.

A growing number of states have enacted laws such as the one you are considering, granting adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates with none of the negative consequences that critics had predicted.

As an adult adoptee myself, I strongly support legislation to grant adoptees the same rights to their birth records as non-adoptees. Thank you for considering this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Gietzen".

Kristin Gietzen
President & CEO
Arbor Circle
616-295-6543



*Concerned United Birthparents, Inc.
Since 1976*

October 27, 2023

*Rep. Kristian Grant
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909*

*Rep. Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909*

In support of HB5148 and HB5149 - Records: vital records; requirements to obtain certificate of live birth of an adult adoptee

Dear Representatives Grant and Outman,

On behalf of *Concerned United Birthparents* (CUB), we thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement in **strong support** of *HB5148 and HB5149 - Records: vital records; requirements to obtain certificate of live birth of an adult adoptee*. We are delighted you are championing this important quest to end the systemic discrimination against adopted persons in Michigan this year and we will standby to support you in any way you need.

CUB was founded in 1976 and is the nation's preeminent group of women who lost infants to domestic infant adoption's closed adoption-era. It is our voices that are often co-opted to keep discriminatory policy in place against adoptees. However, we universally believe it is a basic human right to know one's identity and we are against all practices that abuse this right, including but not limited to the practice of sealed records in adoptions. We believe an adopted person's right to their own original birth certificate is absolute and we only support policy that restores this right without restrictions or qualifications. Every single adult adopted person in America has a fundamental right to his/her/their original birth certificate.

The myth that birth/first mothers were promised confidentiality is often used to oppose restoring equality to adult adopted persons. The reality is that keeping us anonymous was convenient for an institution that functioned on shame and secrecy which is exactly how the domestic infant adoption system operated when we lost our children to it. We were never promised confidentiality. No document we signed in which we relinquished our rights were we promised confidentiality. This issue of

confidentiality was actually researched by Elizabeth J. Samuels, professor of law at the University of Maryland. Her findings were overwhelmingly conclusive: there has never been a single document presented that supports this myth of confidentiality ([*Surrender and Subordination: Birth Mothers and Adoption Law Reform*](#), 20 Mich. J. Gender & L. 33 (2013)). Further, we are united in that we never expected confidentiality from our own relinquished children, not at the time of relinquishment and certainly not today in 2023 which is an additional reason why we support HB 5148/HB5149.

When we hear well-meaning people cite “protecting birth/first parent privacy” in opposition to restoring equality to adopted persons, we hear them confusing privacy with secrecy. Privacy refers to the ability to control information about oneself and involves the basic human right to keep certain aspects of one's life or personal information away from *public scrutiny* or *unauthorized access*. We do not consider the adults whom we gave birth to as “the public.” We believe they are authorized individuals to access their own original birth certificates and that they have earned this authority simply by being born: it is their birthright to know the truth about their birth if they so desire. *Secrecy* is the word we want you to hear if/when opponents weaponize the term *privacy* because *secrecy* is the deliberate act of hiding something from others *even if they have a legitimate reason to access it* and it is *secrecy*, not *privacy*, that state policy keeps legalized by failing to restore rights to adult adopted persons.

And last, we want you to know that the day is here when it is actually *more private* to restore an adopted person's right to their original birth certificate than to not. The consumer DNA industry has brought an end to the era of genetic and adoption secrecy. The irony is that it has also created a very public way to identify relatives. When we listen to adoptees, they tell us they feel forced to use consumer DNA to circumvent discriminatory policy that denies them their original birth certificates. They tell us if they had their original birth certificates, they could initiate private and direct communication. An adopted person with his/her original birth certificate (and therefore our names as birthparents) can make sensitive, personal and private contact if they want, which we as the women who lost them to adoption also prefer.

Representatives, thank you for working to restore equality to adult adopted persons. We support you. If we can offer you any additional assistance in your policymaking, please let us know. Thank you for your consideration and for hearing our voices.

Sincerely,

Deborah Myers
President, Concerned United Birthparents, Inc.
deb@concernedunitedbirthparents.org



October 30, 2023

Rep. Kristian Grant
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Rep. Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Rep. Grant and Rep. Outman,

Hands Across The Water, Inc. (HATW) is a private, non-profit child placing agency, licensed in the State of Michigan to evaluate applicants for adoption and to place and supervise children for adoption. Since 1999, HATW has placed over 1,200 children in adoptive homes, through intercountry adoption, direct placement/infant adoption, and adoption of children from the child welfare system. With nearly 25 years of experience supporting and empowering children and families through strengths-based, inclusive services, we are writing this letter in strong support of HB 5148 and HB 5149, allowing adult adopted persons unrestricted access to their original birth certificates.

As adoption professionals, we know now what adoptees have known for generations; that secrecy harms individuals and families and promotes disconnection in the name of “privacy”. Adoptees, like all human beings, deserve essential information regarding their identities, medical and family histories. This legislation is long overdue, with 15 other states prioritizing adoptee rights. Thank you for leading the way in the State of Michigan in joining this movement towards eliminating these antiquated and secretive practices.

Sincerely,

Katie Page Sander
Executive Director
Hands Across The Water, Inc.
www.hatw.org



SavingOurSisters

*A family preservation **first** organization.*

November 2, 2023

Rep. Kristian Grant
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Rep. Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Support for Michigan HB5148 and HB5149

Dear Representatives Grant and Outman:

Saving Our Sisters - SOS, Incorporated is a birth parent led, national, nonpartisan, all volunteer family preservation focused organization committed to helping ensure families make informed decisions before applying a permanent solution such as adoption to a temporary crisis they may be experiencing. We provide direct action via mentoring, education, resources and information including specifics of how a child's original birth certificate may be sealed upon an adoption finalization. This information is a fact that the majority of adoption entities omit when working with expectant families considering adoption today. Over the last 12 years, we have helped well over 2000 families across the country make fully informed decisions regarding adoption for their child(ren).

This letter is to express our **strong** support of HB5148 and HB5149 which will restore the right of all adult Michigan adopted persons to gain access if they choose to have their pre-adoption/original birth certificate.

We are adamant that birth / first / natural parents do not want to deprive their child(ren) of anything or have them be treated differently than anyone else.. In fact it is quite the opposite. By withholding original birth certificates from adult adopted persons, it essentially is treating them as a perpetual child - and holding them to a contract that they never agreed to, nor had a choice to participate in.

On behalf of myself, a first / birth parent, and the founder and president of Saving Our Sisters - SOS, Incorporated, we fully support the passage of HB5148 and HB5149.

Sincerely,

Renee Gelin
(signed electronically)
Founder/President

3834 Morgons Castle Ct.
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638

Contact: (407) 479-7540 / sosadoption247@gmail.com

Website: SavingOurSistersAdoption.org
FB: facebook.com/adoptionSOS / Twitter: [SOSadoption](https://twitter.com/SOSadoption)
Instagram: [savingoursistersadoption](https://instagram.com/savingoursistersadoption)



Representative Grant and Representative Outman,

I am writing to show support for HB 5148 and HB5149 which will restore the right of all Michigan adult adopted people access to their pre-adoption birth certificate.

I have been an advocate for restoring the rights of adopted people for over 25 years. I currently serve as the President of the Louisiana Coalition for Adoption Reform. LCAR partnered with Louisiana State Representative Charles "Chuck" Owen to pass HB 450 to restore the right of access to Louisiana's adult adopted citizens which went into effect August 1, 2022 as Act 470. This piece of legislation had overwhelming Republican support in both chambers and been positively received. Since enactment, there have been over 1000 applications submitted and processed, without incident.

Access to one's original birth certificate, the government document that records one's birth is a fundamental right of every citizen. A right that is not given to all Michigan adopted people.

This lack of equality robs adopted persons of their identity, continuing to treat adult adopted persons as perpetual children without respect and dignity.

It ensures that people surrendered for adoption grow up without ever knowing their true origin, their own "chapter one" – and foster their different treatment from others. As Louisiana State Representative Owen said during the session, "It's not the job of government to be the custodian of secrets."

I have been witness to the positive outcome of legislation that recognizes and restores the ability of adult adopted people to obtain their own documented truths.

On behalf of myself and the Louisiana Coalition for Adoption Reform, we fully support the passage of HB 5148 and HB 5149.

Sincerely,

Elise Lewis

President, Louisiana Coalition for Adoption Reform

Info@laadoptreform.org

804-370-6353



October 27, 2023

*Representative Kristian Grant
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909*

*Representative Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909*

In support of HB5148 and HB5149 - Records: vital records; requirements to obtain certificate of live birth of an adult adoptee

Dear Representative Grant and Representative Outman,

We are a nation-wide group of birth/first mothers who have lost children to adoption. We are writing today to express our strong support for HB5148 and HB 5149. We are deeply appreciative of your efforts to restore equality to the now adults that we lost to closed adoption practices. Below are a few reasons why we feel strongly about this issue and we want you to know we stand by to assist you in any way you need to modernize the law in Michigan for adult adopted persons.

Equality: This is the most important reason why we support HB 5148/HB5149. We believe all human beings have a right to know who they are and where they come from and that all adult adopted persons should be treated equally under the law. If Michigan seeks to have a fair and equal policy in place, HB5148/HB5149 needs to be prioritized and passed. It is simply wrong to discriminate against a class of adult citizens based on their circumstances at birth and because their circumstances subjected them to a dual birth certificate system in place. They deserve access to any documentation about themselves once they become adults.

Privacy: Current law is actually harming us, mothers of adoption loss. For those of us who lost children to adoption during the closed adoption-era practices, current law is forcing our sons/daughters to use consumer-DNA to find us. Consumer-DNA tests are not private. In fact, they are very public. What we prefer is for our adult sons/daughters to contact us privately so that we can decide with them, as two adults fully capable of managing our own relationships with each other, what is actually best for us. We do not need this relationship governed in any way. We are adults and further, we have a right to privacy and dignity. HB5148 and HB5149 put into place the most private and dignified option for all of us separated by previously harmful practices of the closed adoption era.

Healing: We recognize policy surrounding the restoration of equality to adult adoptees to request and receive their original birth certificates is a very unique issue for a legislature to take up. While we feel this issue is squarely a rights issue and that all adult adopted persons should be treated equally under the law— and we wish the conversation would stop there— we recognize it does not. We are intimately associated with the issue surrounding this bill and therefore uniquely qualified to speak up about it because it is our names that appear on the original birth certificates of those who were

adopted. It is our identities that have been cited as a reason to keep current law in place. We have spoken very publicly about the healing aspect of a bill that restores rights to adult adopted persons and the thing we want the Michigan legislature to know is that when our lost sons/daughters are able to find us, we both experience healing. Because we have been so public with our views, we invite you to view/read some of our previously published works on this aspect of healing:

- [Catholic Birthmothers to Legislators: Help Us Heal](#)
- [Opinion: Keeping birth parents' identities secret doesn't just hurt the adopted; it hurts those who gave up their children](#)
- [How we feel about "Confidentiality" \(38 secs\)](#)

For these reasons, we are in strong support of these bills. Thank you for hearing us on this important issue and if there is anything you need from us to support your efforts, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Eileen (Wobse) McQuade

Co-Founder, Catholic Mothers For Truth & Transparency

Lost Daughter in 1966 - New York, NY

Guild of the Infant Savior

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of NY

Karen (Galarneau) Quesnel

Co-Founder, Catholic Mothers For Truth & Transparency

Lost Son in 1981 - Wethersfield, CT

St. Agnes Home for Unwed Mothers

Catholic Charities of Hartford

Members, Catholic Mothers for Truth and Transparency:

<p>Frances (Guido) Scalise 1959 - Philadelphia, PA St. Vincent's Home Catholic Charities</p>	<p>Joyce (Baier) Steensrud 1960 - Spokane, WA</p>
<p>Diane (Renaldi) Hook 1961 - Waterbury, CT Catholic Family Services Waterbury, CT</p>	<p>Patricia Taylor 1961 - West Hartford, CT St. Agnes Home for Unwed Mothers Catholic Charities of Hartford</p>
<p>Carol (Pasquale) Gainey 1962 - Ft. Lauderdale, FL St. Vincent's Home Catholic Community Services</p>	<p>Marylee (Benham) MacDonald 1962 - Phoenix, AZ Florence Crittenton Home Catholic Social Services, Phoenix, AZ</p>
<p>Carolyn (Sanderson) Hoard 1964 - West Palm Beach, FL Catholic Charities West Palm Beach</p>	<p>Barbara Montgomery 1965 - Washington, DC St. Ann's Infant & Maternity Home Catholic Charities - Washington, DC</p>
<p>Carol (Kirby) Schaefer 1966 - Richmond, VA Seton House Catholic Social Services - Charlotte, NC</p>	<p>Eileen (Wobse) McQuade 1966 - New York, NY Guild of the Infant Savior Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of NY</p>

<p>Leslie (Pate) Mackinnon 1966 - Mobile, AL Allen Memorial Home Catholic Charities of Mobile, AL</p>	<p>Margaret (Hoffman) LyBurtus 1966 - Southfield, MI Merrilac Hall Catholic Charities of Mount Clemens</p>
<p>Barbara (Baumgartner) Gladfelter 1967 - Kansas City, MI</p>	<p>Julia (MacDonnell) Chang 1967 - Dorchester, MA St. Mary's Infant Asylum - Catholic Charities</p>
<p>Mary (Bergquist) Jeffrey 1967 - St. Paul, MN Catholic Charities of Minneapolis, MN</p>	<p>Yvonne Leist 1967 - Wausau, WI St. Ann's Maternity Home Catholic Social Services</p>
<p>Kathleen (Bral) Chafin 1968 - Sioux City, IA Jesuit Province of Midwest</p>	<p>Patricia (Van Cura) Tiscza 1968 - Bronx, NY Rosalie Hall, Bronx, NY Catholic Home Bureau</p>
<p>Sarah Burns 1968 - San Francisco, CA St. Elizabeth's Home Archdiocese of San Francisco, CA</p>	<p>Barbara Kluijtmans 1969 - Goirle, Noord Brabant, The Netherlands Huize de Bocht Tilburg Congregate (Catholic Nuns)</p>
<p>Betty (Gettig) Holden 1969 - Tampa, FL Salvation Army Home</p>	<p>Cheryl Steckler 1969 - Las Vegas, NV Catholic Welfare of Las Vegas, NV</p>
<p>Janice (Gallagher) Lau 1969 - Chicago, IL St. Vincent's Infant Asylum & Orphanage Catholic Charities - Chicago, IL</p>	<p>Lynda (Curry) Szybowski 1969 - Philadelphia, PA St. Vincent's Home Catholic Social Services, Philadelphia</p>
<p>Maureen Boyle 1969 - New London, CT Catholic Charities, New London, CT</p>	<p>Virginia (Cummings) Schaller 1969 - Washington, DC Catholic Charities</p>
<p>Janet (Dotson) Stuessi 1970 - Kansas City, MO Florence Crittenton Home Catholic Charities</p>	<p>Mary Greene 1970 - New Britain, CT St. Agnes Home, West Hartford, CT Catholic Family Services of New Britain</p>
<p>Francine (Ambrogio) Gurtler 1971 - White Plains, NY St. Faith's Home Tarrytown, NY</p>	<p>Ginny (Robbins) Beall 1971 - Los Angeles, CA St. Anne's Home for Unwed Mothers</p>

<p>Gretchen Hoffman 1971 - Springfield, MA 1974 - St. Paul, MN</p>	<p>Jo Ann (Volovski) Van Reenan 1971 - Philadelphia, PA</p>
<p>Marlene (Weisman) Sassaman 1971 - Newark, NJ Catholic Charities of Newark</p>	<p>Mimi (Mary) Janes 1971 - Los Angeles, CA St. Anne's Maternity Home Holy Family, Los Angeles Archdiocese</p>
<p>Rosie (Huck) Brant 1971 - Milwaukee, WI Salvation Army Booth Memorial Hospital Catholic Social Services of Milwaukee, WI</p>	<p>Kathy (Hatt) Aderhold 1972 - Omaha, NE Salvation Army Booth Maternity Home Catholic Charities of Lincoln, NE</p>
<p>Glen Frazer 1973 - Oakland, CA St. Elizabeth's Home Children's Home Society</p>	<p>Rosemary (King) Lee 1974 - Atlanta, GA Florence Crittenton Home, Atlanta/Chamblee, GA Child Service & Family Counseling Center (now, "Families First")</p>
<p>Holly (Hagenow) Harlow 1975 - Hartford, CT Catholic Family Services</p>	<p>Eileen Drennen 1976 - San Diego, CA Caritas Family Services - St. Cloud, MN</p>
<p>Elaine Marie (Fitzgerald) Weaver 1976 - Philadelphia, PA St. Vincent's Home for Unwed Mothers Catholic Social Services, Archdiocese of Philadelphia</p>	<p>Cynthia (Hallam) Glenn 1978 - Springfield, IL St. Monica's Unwed Mother's Home - Springfield, IL Catholic Charities of East St. Louis, IL</p>
<p>Patricia (Hart) Flanagan 1978 - New Bedford, MA Rosalie Hall, Bronx, NY New Bedford Child & Family Services of MA</p>	<p>Anita Garland 1979 - Belleville, Ontario Canada</p>
<p>Jennifer (Duff) McMillan 1979 - New South Wales, Australia Catholic Adoption Agency, New South Wales</p>	<p>Kathleen Moran 1979 - Evanston, IL St. Therese Hospital - Waukegan, IL The Cradle of Evanston, IL</p>
<p>Linda (Merz) Reboulet 1980 - West Springfield, MA Our Lady of Providence Children's Center West Springfield, MA</p>	<p>Maria Arbuckle 1981 - Ireland St Patrick's, Navan Road Dublin</p>
<p>Karen (Galarneau) Quesnel 1981 - West Hartford, CT St. Agnes Home for Unwed Mothers Catholic Charities of Hartford</p>	<p>Renee (Helewa) Gayder 1982 - Newark, NJ Catholic Charities</p>

<p>Charlotte (O'Connor) MacAulay 1983 - Charlottetown, PEI Canada St Gerard's Home Catholic Family Services Bureau</p>	<p>Cynthia (Rounds) McGuigan 1983 - West Bridgewater, MA Catholic Charities - Brockton, MA</p>
<p>Liana Jones 1984 - Charlottetown, PEI Canada St. Gerard's Home Catholic Family Services Bureau</p>	<p>Monique Gentile 1985 - Staten Island, NY</p>
<p>Eileen (Moran) Mertens 1988 - Sycamore, IL</p>	<p>Candace Cahill 1990 - St. Cloud, MN Caritas Family Services - St. Cloud, MN</p>
<p>Catherine Devald 1990 - Norwalk, CT Catholic Family Services - Norwalk, CT</p>	<p>Melissa (Themar) Geck 1993 - Milwaukee, WI Catholic Social Services of Milwaukee</p>
<p>Allisa Brunner 2000 - St. Paul, MN Catholic Charities - Seton Services</p>	<p>Karen Tessier 2003 - South Hadley, MA Brightside for Children and Families Archdiocese of Springfield, MA</p>

Representative Kristian Grant and Representative Pat Outman,

I, along with 1,365 other mothers of adoption loss (list enclosed), fully support HB 5148 and HB 5149 that would provide Access to an Adopted Person's Original Birth Certificate in their current form.

My name is Karen Wilson-Buterbaugh. In 1966, at age 17, I was removed from school and dropped off at a maternity home to serve time as an "inmate" for my sin of "unwed" pregnancy.

Besides my first hand experience of unwillingly having my child taken from me for adoption, I offer an additional expertise to you. I am both a researcher and a published author. I founded the Baby Scoop Era Research Initiative (BSERI) in 2007. We are dedicated to research, education and inquiry into the period of American adoption history known as the Baby Scoop Era and we are established on principles of historical accuracy, truth and justice.

For your reference, the Baby Scoop Era was a period in United States history starting the end of World War II through 1972, characterized by an increased rate of premarital pregnancies (due solely to population increase) over the preceding period, along with a higher rate of newborn adoptions. From approximately 1945 through 1972, it is estimated that possibly as many as 1.5 million mothers in the United States were pressured to surrender their newborn babies to adoption. Maternity reformatories, institutionally induced guilt, psychoanalytic explanations for single motherhood, and coercive adoption practices became a brief footnote in American social history, except to the marginalized mothers who survived these abusive and unethical practices. These women carried into their adult lives unaddressed burdens of worry, pain and a corrosive secret. The injurious effects of social work practice of these years are very much alive in the lives of millions of American women, including myself.

However, despite what we went through, we are capable women and we do not need government intervention into our private lives as we can manage our own affairs.

There are very few organizations that oppose open records today but those that do often claim they are protecting the privacy of natural mothers. As part of my research, we have amassed a list of women who publicly endorse a declaration that they were (a) never 'promised confidentiality' and (b) they completely support allowing adult adopted persons to access their original birth certificates. We fully support the passage of HB5148 and HB5149 in their current form without discriminatory amendments. All adult adopted people should be treated equally and have unrestricted access to their own original birth certificates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Karen Wilson-Buterbaugh
Founder, Baby Scoop Era Research Initiative
Mothers for Open Records Everywhere (M.O.R.E)
mothersforopenrecords@gmail.com

Mothers for Open Records Everywhere (M.O.R.E.)

The following is a list of women who lost children to adoption during the Baby Scoop Era along with the year and state in which the relinquishment occurred. By signing the petition, they have endorsed the following declaration:

We, mothers separated from our children by adoption, hereby state publicly and unequivocally that we fully support open records for adult adoptees. We further state publicly and unequivocally that we were NEVER promised privacy or confidentiality, either verbally or in writing, at any time prior to, during, or after the surrender of our children to adoption.

Count: 1,365

Abbagale Hixson, TN 1974	Halcyon Ahearn, DC 1966	Mary Anne Porter, NY 1968
Abby Genovaldi, IL 1965	Harriet Person, WA 1976	Mary Baird, OH 1976
Abby Genovaldi, IL 1966	Harriet Schwartz-Pereira, NY 1970	Mary Beth Kom, NY 1968
Aileen Brown, WI 1983	Heather Johnson, WA 1985	Mary Beth Regelman, MN 1973
Alan E. Butler, OH 1969	Heather McClane, AK 1984	Mary Block, TX 1978
Alana Miller, NC 1971	Heather McClane, AK 1987	Mary Boothe-Wert, VA 1979
Alcye Tyree, CA 1970	Heidi Carrico, GA 1986	Mary Bowman, CO 1976
Alice Allmon, NY 1982	Heidi Carrico, TX 1982	Mary C. Evans, NY 1962
Alice Chambers, TX 1968	Helen Dudek (nee Hauser), NY 1959	Mary Cave, MN 1978
Alice Cusaac, NC 1974	Helen Edmison, MN 1990	Mary Clingenpeel, VA 1973
Alisa Brerese, MD 1973	Helen Martin Monroe, AR 1945	Mary Clingenpeel, VA 1975
Alison Weber, TX 2000	Helen Tobler, CA 1958	Mary Cople, PA 1970
Allie Mozzone, KY 1973	Hilah Hoskins, NY 1975	Mary Cumming, TX 1965
Amanda Bandy, CO 1978	Hilary Larkin, NY 1971	Mary Elizabeth Martin, OK 1950
Amy Fuller Pla, GA 1962	Holly Carhart, PA 1984	Mary Ellen Trapp, MI 1969
Amy K. Brown, TX 1999	Holly Clare, NY 1970	Mary Gibeault, MA 1975
Anastasia Cope, GA 2000	Holly Osborn, TX 1998	Mary Gilliam, CO 1984
Andora Herring Velez, GA 1967	Holly Reinke, MN 1975	Mary Grace Willis, NC 1958
Andora Herring Velez, PA 1968	Holly, OK 1983	Mary Hicks, LA 1968
Andrea Scott, CT 1979	Hope Carter, NY 1981	Mary Hogan, UT 1972
Anella Kogut, TX 1982	Ilene Fell, NY 1970	Mary Jane Hagofsky, NC 1980
Angel Ernst, OH 1987	Ilene Wood, CA 1969	Mary Jane Lyons, NH 1999
Angela Gnann, KS 1977	Ilona Brown, NY 1964	Mary Jo Pruitt, SC 1971
Angela Harris, IN 1972	Irene Allen, TX 1967	Mary Lease, OR 1984
Angela Harris, IN 1974	Irene Fara, NY 1956	Mary Lee Swan, IN 1960
Angela Smith, NC 1979	Irene Gendron, NJ 1969	Mary Lindsey, NY 1970
Angela Smith, VA 2000	Irene Kethan, MI 1972	Mary Lynne Cumming, TX 1965
Angela Tullis, AL 1987	Irene Sherrell, TX 1958	Mary Lynne Smith, CA 1961
Angela Varney, OH	Irma Garcia, CA 1965	Mary Margaret (Gerace) Stevenson, TX 1977
Anita Collins, MA 1970	Ivey Stapleton, LA 1979	Mary McCann, VA 1977
Anita Knight, OH 1970	J. Dudley-Robnett, WA 1980	Mary McCann, VA 1977
Ann Henry, MA	J. Tomczak, NY 1970	Mary McKeon, NJ 1980
Ann Medlock, VA 1954	Jackie Dresback, ID 1976	Mary Miller, NY 1968
Ann Panetta, NY 1978	Jackie Gregory, WA 1985	Mary O'Loughlin, MA 1968
Ann Seagraves, KY 1980	Jacqueline Guinan, PA 1968	Mary Owens, MD 1975
Anne Cote Morris, NY 1977	Jacqueline Horan, PA 1983	Mary Rigotti, NY 1979
Anne Dryman, FL 1965	Jaimee Stuchell, WV 1999	Mary Romelle Murphy, WI 1969
Anne Hodges, NY 1963	James Crossen, CA 1955	Mary Ross, IL 1970
Anne M. Schmitt, NY 1962	Jamie Katz-Ridlon, CA 1990	Mary Schmit, WI 1968
Anne Marie Nicholas, CO 1970	Jamison Carter, IL 1973	Mary Stout, CA 1981
Anne Morris, NY 1977	Jan Baker, WA 1969	

Anne Moxley, MA 1968	Jan Coon, TX 1968	Mary Terrell, PA 1970
Annette Bangs, TX 1973	Jan Holman, MN 1967	Mary Varco, MI 1970
Annette Hartley, OH 1972	Jan Lankford, LA 1970	Mary Wendt, MN 1966
Annie Galbraith, NJ 1969	Jan McAlister, OR 1968	MaryLou Parks, NY 1968
Annie Mae Edward, SC 1958	Jan Myers, VA 1967	Maura Cramer, MA 1971
April Buchanan, NE 1981	Jan Ojers, TX 1970	Maureen H. Eurell, NY 1969
Arlene Rose, WA 1966	Jan Schultz, IL 1969	Maureen McNamara, WA 1972
Ashley, MI 2000	Jan Wolfe-McAlister, OR 1968	Mayre Thompson, KY 1978
Audrey Carter, NY 1982	Jane Edwards, CA 1966	Meg Jenks, PA 1971
Audrey G. Osipow, NJ 1964	Jane Moyo, MA 1986	Melanie Bryce, CA 1973
Audrey McVean, DC 1962	Jane Oakley, VA 1983	Melanie Lewis, OK 1983
Audrey Osipow, NJ 1964	Jane Parker, PA 1967	Melinda Dattilio, WV 1991
B. Merrifield, MI 1962	Jane Schindler, TX 1967	Melissa Cornett, OH 1983
Barbara Arlen, OR 1966	Jane Wells, GA 1981	Melissa Schwabach, WI 1981
Barbara Asher-Ollis, OK 1981	Janeice Simmons, TX 1986	Memory Mann, CA 1967
Barbara Carawan, LA 1979	Janet Buffington, DE 1970	Menda Hayden, CA 1976
Barbara Coleman, NJ 1962	Janet McDonald, MI 1967	Michele Jereaux, WA 1984
Barbara Crom, NE 1997	Janet Romano, RI 1969	Michele Rice, OH 1970
Barbara Egli, IL 1989	Janice Adar, NY 1965	Michele Rodewald, TX 1988
Barbara Franks-Morra, OH 1969	Janice Barnes, IN 1966	Michelle Bisacchi, CA 1985
Barbara Frechette, MI 1983	Janice Brewer, NC 1971	Michelle Cavanaugh, PA 1981
Barbara Hanks Trevey, VA 1970	Janice Crane, CA 1995	Michelle Dzurainin, OH
Barbara Johnson, CA 1984	Janice Harris, CA 1979	Michelle Gaarder, CA 1988
Barbara Lee, SC 1965	Janice Harris, CA 1980	Michelle Jernigan, AL
Barbara McKelvy, TX 1970	Janice Hayden, TX 1989	Michelle Styles, CA 1984
Barbara Murray, CA 1970	Janie Gies, WA 1998	Michiko Pasto, AZ 1983
Barbara O'Brien Smith, PA 1968	Janie Lee Drummond, FL	Mildred Mason, MI 1932
Barbara Pasternak, NY	Janine Reese, PA 1972	Mimi Janes, CA 1971
Barbara Posternak, NY 1959	Janis Bennett-Salcas, OH 1974	Mimi Janes, CA 1979
Barbara Salisbury, IA 1972	Janis Osborne, CA 1969	Missi Evans-Miller, WV 1988
Barbara Seeger, GA 1963	Jayi Presley, MI 1979	Missi Miller, VA 1988
Barbara Seeger, GA 1963	Jean Fendt, WI 1971	Mitzi D. Harville, AL 1978
Barbara Trevey, VA 1970	Jean Irwin, MI	Molly Green, FL 1962
Barbara Troupe, PA 2000	Jean Olson Lewis, WI 1965	Mona Ismail, NE 1985
Barbara Wilson, OR 1968	Jean Zinnen, IA 1976	Monika Brola, NY 1964
Barbara, MI 1969	Jean-Marie Hansen, DC 1971	Monyeen Pilcher, TX 1960
Beckie Dunning, IL 1962	Jeanette Esser, MI 1966	Mrs. Dale Rutherford, MA 1969
Beckie Dunning, IL 1972	Jeanette Roberts, CA 1956	Mystery Luna, TX 1993
Becky (Davin) Martin, MA 1970	Jeanette Vogt, CA 1979	Mystery Luna, TX 1996
Becky Lee, WA 1963	Jeanne Atkinson Gartland, IL 1966	Nancie Crawford, FL 1967
Becky Mullins, IL 1969	Jeanne Brewer, PA 1958	Nancy Benton, CA 1968
Becky Warner, IN 1972	Jeanne Brooks, NC 1968	Nancy Brisson, CT 1963
Belinda Douglas, IL 1981	Jeanne Kinder, WI 1968	Nancy Bucenec, NY 1967
Beth A. Cox, KY 1974	Jeanne Mattson, CT 1973	Nancy Buchanan, MA 1965
Beth King, TN 1978	Jeanne Nott, NE 1970	Nancy Campbell, ID 1967
Beth Polynice, GA 1996	Jeanne Wilson, GA 1984	Nancy Coggle, WA 1977
Betsey Holt, CA 1968	Jennifer Bartosiak, CT 1978	Nancy Eisbrenner, CA 1970
Betsy Goodwin, CA 1968	Jennifer Cook, DC 1980	Nancy Horgan, RI 1968
Betty Adams, IN 1970	Jennifer Huskisson, TX 1993	Nancy Hubbard, MI 1972
Betty Bertorelli, TX 1966	Jennifer, AR 1977	Nancy Jenkins, VA 1967Susan
Betty J. Maryanski, TX 1966	Jeri Banks, OH 1969Marcia	Oliver, VA 1967
Betty Lou Davis, SC 1953	Hegedus-Record-, OH 1969	Nancy Peuraharju, AR 1981
Betty Rencher, TX 1958	Jeri Lee Schram, WI 1978	Nancy Pugliese, NJ 1965
Beverly Bowen-Modee, SC 1967	Jerri Adams, CA 1983	Nancy Slater, OH 1981
Beverly Hart, PA 1970	Jerrie Sloan, OH 1967	Nancy Smith, NY 1956
Beverly Miller, KS 1970	Jesica Johnson, UT 1997	Nancy Williams, IL 1968
Beverly Sanders, TX 1999	Jesica Johnson, UT 2000	Nancy Wilson, GA 1967
Billie McCabe, NJ 1955	Jessika Rene Fialho, CA 2008	Nancy, VA 2002
Bobbie Helms, NC	Jill Canoyer, VA 1967	Nanette Schaible, CA 1960Susan Y.
Bonita Cerasaro, NY 1961	Jill Hicks, OR 1964	Stickel, CA 1960
Bonnie Bouchard, NY 1959	Jo L. Ray, CA 1963	Nanette Stone Levine, NY 1961
Bonnie Davis, MI 1960	Joan Lynn, NY 1964	Naomi Durkin, NY 1977

Bonnie Duplissey, LA 1982	Joan Schulenberger, PA 1960	Naomi Goring, CT 1967
Bonnie Geddes, OK 1965	Joan Taylor, VA 1970	Nelda, TX 1972
Bonnie Hughes, MI 1970	Joan Weeks, MI 1966	Nicole King, IN 1996
Bonnie Lamb, NC 1970	Joan, VA 1970	Nina Campbell, NM 1967
Bonnie Parr, CA 1962	Joan, VA 1970	Noreen Chilson, CA 1968
Bonnie Piazza, CO 1968	JoAnn Brinley, SC 1968	Noreen Chilson, CA 1969
Bonnie Piazza, NJ 1966	JoAnn Robinson-Roberts, IN 1993	Norma Blankenship, TX 1992
Bonnie Rumford, KS 1965	Joann Seeley, AL 1967	Norma Young, UT 1971
Brandi Williams, CA 1998	JoAnn Spears, TX 1968	Olivette Donohue, TX 1969
Brandy Bottini-Elkins, KS 1999	Joanne Betchker, PA 1982	P. Lynn Wells, DC 1970
Brandy Robinson, SC	Joanne Nunez, NY 1977	Pam Hodgson, TX 1967
Brenda Estes, AR 1969	Joanne Tressa, PA 1982	Pam Powless, IL 1967
Brenda Henderson, LA 1969	Jodi Milne, TX 1984	Pam, ND 1975
Brenda Kanz, MN 1980	Jody Hill, OK 1972	Pamela Callender, OH 1983
Brenda Naquin, TX 1954	Joey Steele, CA 1985	Pamela Dupre, LA 1974
Brenda Schmittering, NY 1964	Johanna Shoudy, AK 1972	Pamela Hofford, IA 1976
Brenda Shaw, GA 1978	John Burkholder, CA 1973	Pamela Niedert, CT 1966
Brenda Yancey, GA 1969	Josephine Dimiceli, NY 1971	Pamela Parks, IL 1982
Brooke Murray, NJ 2000	Josephine Nieto Garcia, TX 1975	Pamela Silos, NY 1974
Bunnie O'Neill, PA 1967	Joyce Coke, TX 1964	Pat DiLouie, NY 1970
C. Denise Earley, FL 1966	Joyce Daffron AL 1960	Pat Griffiths, CA 1966
C. Denise Earley, FL 1967	Joyce Elaine Huffman, MI 1970	Pat Griffiths, MI 1964
C. Dianne Baker-Enger, OR 1991	Joyce Lotsbaich, MI 1969	Pat Knight, FL 1962
C. Raab-Herget, NJ 1967	Joyce Lovelace, NY 1970	Pat Larson, IL 1967
C. Raab-Herget, NJ 1970	Joyce Marlowe, NC 1984	Pat O'Hare, PA 1963
C. Stow, WA 1966	Joyce Perry, MI 1970	Pat Segatto, FL 1964
C. Stow, WA 1970	Joyce Walker, CA 1962	Patrice Wagner, DE 1963
Callie McCalmon, HI 1984	Juanita Frazier, IN 1971	Patrice Walsh, IL 1977
Camilla Smith, FL 1983	Juanita Melton, AL 1965	Patricia A. Dekreon, OH 1964
Camilla Winders, TX 1983	Juanita Simpkins, FL 1967	Patricia Barbara, IN 1971
Camille Anderson, NY 1966	Juanta Melton, AL 1965	Patricia Bydwell, CA 1962
Candace Kolz, FL 1967	Judi Batchelor, NC 1966	Patricia Cisek, NY 1984
Candace WellsSehorn, WA 1969	Judi Duke, NY 1962	Patricia Collins, MD 1967
Cande Hamilton, NY 1973	Judi Kloss, WA 1970	Patricia Courtemanche, VA 1964
Candy Brummett, TN 1994	Judi Rickert, IL 1969	Patricia Crooks, TX 1982
Candyss Fitzgerald, UT 1969	Judith E. Bock, OK 1969	Patricia Dunbar, PA 1979
Carl Duddeck, WI 1951	Judith Faltisco, NY 1958	Patricia Gilleran, NY 1970
Carla Sheldoon, ND 1970	Judith Foster, NJ 1961	Patricia Higginbotham, WA 1973
Carlyn G Stocker, TX 1974	Judith K. Harmon, OR 1969	Patricia Horn, GA 1962
Carol Aldrich, NY 1968	Judith Kratz, NJ 1975	Patricia Horton, MI 1967
Carol Chandler, PA 1966	Judith Moxley, VA 1956	Patricia Hovinen, MN 1970
Carol Clark, IL 1965	Mary Lou Bovie, VA 1964	Patricia Jones, OH 1977
Carol Herman, MA 1965	Judith Rice, ME 1962	Patricia Jones, OH 1984
Carol Hook Sullivan, GA 1967	Judy Graham, CA 1969	Patricia M. Mongeau, MA 1981
Carol Hooten, PA 1961	Judy Kelly, NY 1967	Patricia Mae Sweeney, TX 1960
Carol James, NJ 1964	Judy Merritt, NC 1966	Patricia Morris, NJ 1966
Carol Kollar, NJ 1964	Judy Moxley, TX 1969	Patricia Seaton, OH 1969
Carol Levell Young, NY 1964	Judy Sandness, CO 1972	Patricia Zimmer, CT 1969
Carol Moore, MI 1975	Judy Sullivan, AZ 1968	Patsy Gadberry, TX 1970
Carol Pinkasavage, NY 1978	Judy Wahl Talley, LA 1968	Patti Dobelmann, NM 1978
Carol Profanato, NY 1960	Julia Brown, TX 1962	Patti Lemmer, IL 1955
Carol Rice, KS 1958	Julia Carter, NY 1980	Patti Nesseth, WI 1972
Carol Rivera-Mitchell, NY 1984	Julia Cooper, OK 1977	Patti Stott, NY 1981
Carol Schaefer, NC 1966	Julie Cartwright, NM 1981	Patty Belden, CA 1968
Carole Baxter, MI 1963	Julie Phillips, MI 1981	Patty Burns, NY 1967
Carole Durante, NY 1967	Julie Singh-Phillips, MI 1981	Patty Madson, WA 1982
Carole Good, UT 1964	Julie Weber, GA 1967	Paula Cantrell, KS 1974
Carole Haigney-Murray, MA, 1960	Juls Muncy, VA 1983	Paula Sheets, GA 1966
Carole Richard, SC 1963	Kandi Deaver, ND 1969	Paula Sheets, GA 1966
Carole Wagner, FL 1968	Karen (Dolan) Morin, NY 1973	Paula, IL 1976
Carole Whitehead, NY 1963	Karen Anderson, NJ 1970	Pauline, WA 1971
Caroline Marden, MA	Karen Azlin, DC 1966	Pearl Osborne, CA 1975

Caroline Powser, CA 1954	Karen Buterbaugh, VA 1966	Pearl Osborne, TN 1966
Caroline Truslow, RI 1986	Karen Defoe, TX 1969	Pearl Philbrick, NY 1980
Carolyn Hoard, FL 1964	Karen E. Chimenti, NY 1963	Peggy McCall, MN 1972
Carolyn Hurrelmeyer, OH 1970	Karen Keiling, NJ 1978	Peggy Sullivan, CA 1964
Carolyn Music, NJ 1985	Karen Kline, CA 1971	Pollie Robinson, DC 1963
Carolyn Ressler, NY 1963	Karen Lee Wiscott, GA 1979	Polly Speed, TX 1970
Carolyn Richardson, CA 1960	Karen Lynd, MI 1980	Priscilla Cumberland, TX 1982
Carolyn Ward, FL 1968	Karen Mansur, MA 1963	Priscilla Stevens, NY 1965
Carolyn Watts, KS 1985	Karen Mansur, MA 1967	Priscilla Sullivn, MA 1972
Carrie Castro, CO 1981	Karen Mattman, NJ 1974	Prudence Bastian Karr, NY 1964
Catherine Berman, CA 1968	Karen McCoy, AR 1973	R. Lynn Wallace, OH 1993
Catherine Bryan, NJ 1966	Karen Pope, NJ 1970	Rachel Brown, NV 1999
Catherine Carella, NY 1966	Karen Robbins, TX 1974	Rachel LaMaide, AZ 1983
Catherine Denny, OR 1973	Karen Roedl, DE 1969	Rachel Wells, MD 1985
Catherine Reed, ME 1969	Karen Roy Crockett, CA 1965	Ramona Jeffries, FL 1965
Cathleen Sandy, CT 1980	Karen Skocdopole, AR 1966	Randa Williams, NY 1962
Cathy Bailey, CA 1967	Karen Trainor, WI 1963	Randi Bell, CA 1962
Cathy Bell, LA 1944	Karen Vedder, TX 1967	Randi Sue Sparks, AZ 1978
Cathy Miller, IN 1970	Karen Wilson-Buterbaugh, DC, 1966	Randy Lee Cameron, MI 1981
Cathy Pedrola, CA 1969	Karen Wilson, NJ 1975	Randy Pollitt, KY 1961
Cathy, MN 1978	Karen Wiscott, GA 1979	Rebecca Johnson, NC 1958
Celeste Mullen, WA 1996	Karyn Keyes, CA 1974	Rebecca Kellner, TX 1969
Celia Graham, CA 1969	Kate Irvine-Mills, CA 1966	Rebecca King, TN 1972
Ceren Richardson, CA 1987	Kate Mackin, IA 1965	Rebecca Lightfoot, PA 1992
Ceren Richardson, IL 1990	Kate O'Connor, CO 1964	Rebecca Massey, CA 1964
Ceren Richardson, SC 1992	Katherine Chandler-Dover, NC 1973	Rebecca Mullins, IL 1969
Ceren Richardson, TN 1974	Katherine Connolly, CA 1960	Rebecca Ricardo, DC 1980
Charlene Savoy, NJ 1966	Kathi Stannard, NY 1984	Rebecca Siegel, IL 2000
Charlene Thornton, TX	Kathleen Ann Collie, VA 1974	Rebecca Wilson, MI 1971
Charles Meyer, LA 1969	Kathleen Chautin, LA 1978	Regina Garcia, CO 1990
Cherie Arnall, WA 1969	Kathleen Crouch, NY 1967s	Regina Vignola, NY 1975
Cherie Martin, TX 1978	Kathleen Droogan-Kairit, MA 1971	Renee Phillips, TX 1970
Cherie Martin, TX 1979	Kathleen Hills, MA 1973	Renee Walstra, IN 1982
Cheryl Ackerson, NY 1977	Kathleen Hoeg, CA 1970	Rhonda Burris, MA 1969
Cheryl Bentz, PA 1970	Kathleen Kenney, NJ 1968	Rhonda Mainland, GA 1979
Cheryl Bentz, PA 1971	Kathleen Koch, MA 1969	Rhonda Newsom, WA 1978
Cheryl Brisson, CA 1969	Kathleen Lamantia, OH 1970	Rhonda Nichols, AZ 1975
Cheryl Graves, IA 1979	Kathleen Lee, CA 1964	Rhonda Nichols, AZ 1975
Cheryl Rickards, CA 1968	Kathleen Paulocsak, OH 1971	Rhonda Renner, TN 1966
Chris Gownley, NY 1965	Kathleen Sieger, NY 1973	Richard Henderson, GA 1955
Chris Peters, GA 1971	Kathleen Troutman, ND 1965	Richard Thredford, TX 1977
Christ Dill, MD 1975	Kathleen Vedder, NY 1969	Rick Frye, TX 1980
Christine Barry Laplume, MA 1969	Kathryn Holloway, IN 1969	Robert Davis, CA 1962
Christine Bello, VA 1985	Kathryn, OH 1997	Robert Filipczak, MI 1981
Christine Imhof Losey, NY 1964	Kaththea Borland-Mills, NC 1968	Robert Quayson, PA 1967
Christine LaValley, GA 1983	Kathy Aderhold, NE 1972	Roberta Cordes, OK 1974
Christine McCullough, NJ 1970	Kathy Caudle, UT 1978	Roberta Miller, CA 1970
Christine Olson, IL 1969	Kathy Denman, NY 1968	Roberta Myers, CA 1951
Cindy Neathery, TX 1982	Kathy Griffin, CO 1974	Roberta Radloff, MD 1969
Cindy Noll, WI 1966	Kathy Henderson, AL 1972	Roberta Welch, IL 1966
Cindy Short, IN 1980	Kathy Koehler, CA 1963	Robin Doucette, AR 1981
Cindy Walker, NY 1973	Kathy Koehler, CA 1964	Robin Fannon, IL 1969
Clara Miller, MA 1987	Kathy McCaskill, NY 1969	Robin Heath, AL 1982
Claudette Mason, AL 1966	Kathy Miele, PA 1973	Robin Jefferson, NE 1972
Claudia VanLydegra, CA 1965	Kathy Pearce, CA 1974	Robin Kerr Kimbro, TX 1979
Colleen, IL 1970	Kathy Pearce, CA 1977	Robin Weeks, TX 1979
Connie Hoover, WV 1982	Kathy Perkins, IA 1971	Robin Westbrook, SC 1962
Connie Whiffen, TX 1977	Kathy Petrin, NH 1971	Robin Westbrook, SC 1963
Constance Jane Mathews Hubley, ME 1969	Kathy Podgurski, NJ 1966	Robyn Powell, NJ 1960
Corinne Krokus, PA 1967	Kathy Roe, TX 1969	Robyn Powell, NJ 1963
Cory Salmeron, TX 1978	Kathy Stevens, MI 1967	Rodney Carter, NV 1982
	Kathy White Moore, CA 1966	Ronald Baecker, OH 1968

<p>Crucita Nuanez-Ochoa, AZ 1975 Crystal Carpenter, PA 1968 Cunningham, MI 1954 Curtis Little, MA 1979 Cynthia (Lewis) Harrison, LA 1989 Cynthia Bryant, VA 1970 Cynthia Bubadias, DC 1984 Cynthia Johns, IN 1977 Cynthia Kehl, PA 1973 Cynthia Kehl, PA 1973 Cynthia Metzbower, MD 1982 Cynthia Thomas, OH 1984 Cynthia Whitlock, GA 1978 Cyrilla Johnson, OK 1967 D. J. Cox, KY 1968 D. L. Dossett, VA 1981 D. Wilson, OK 1967 Dale Rutherford, MA 1969 Dan Zachary, WA 1976 Dan Zobrist, IL 1972 Dana Copeland, CA 1981 Dana Kim Baker, IN 1972 Danette Benson, IA 1962 Danielle Gibson, IN 1979 Danna Lee Dishman, KS 1960 Dara Odoms, GA 2002 Darcey Jackson, IN 1981 Darla Landreth, PA 1983 Darlene Carnevale, RI 1970 Darlene Crews, TX 1969 Darlene Gerow, WA 1967 Darlene Hunt, RI 1 Darlene Renfro, CO 1976 Darlene Rosiere, CA 1961 David Durben, NY 1966 David Sandy, VA 1980 Dawn Bartlett, NJ Dawn Beck, PA 1967 Dawn Knox, IN 1989 Dawn Schmid, MN 1968 Dawn Schroer, MD 1976 Dawn Schroer, MD 1983 Dawn Spurlin, MA 1967 Dawn Thaler, MI 1973 Dawn Vich, IL 1983 Deana Lafferty, NY Deb Hanks, IA 1975 Debbie Arce, OH 1970 Debbie Climer, AR 1975 Debbie Climer, AR 1975 Debbie Coffin, NY 1973 Debbie Dennenwitz, OH 1980 Debbie Godek, PA 1968 Debbie Grieg, NY 1969 Debbie Holloway, IL 1973 Debbie Lummus, TX 1968 Debi J. Fye, NH 1973 Debora Shiver, NJ 1976 Deborah Coleman, MA 1974 Deborah Condetti, GA 1988 Deborah Fortuna, CA 1977 Deborah Hayes, OK 1973</p>	<p>Kathy Williams, IL 1965 Katrina Yorkey, CT 1982 Kay Garrett, TN 1975 Kay Hagan-Haller, SC 1975 Kay Heimerson, OK 1964 Kay Houy, TX 1972 Kay Johnson, IA 1979 Kay Otting, LA 1955 Kay Penn, TX 1970 Kay West, FL 1964 Kay West, FL 1964 Kelly Haber, CA 1982 Kelly Theis, TX 1980 Kelly Wall, TX 1985 Kendall Dietz, OH 1963 Kendall Dietz, OH 1963 Kenneth McDowell, CO 1972 Kenneth Watts, LA 1964 Keri Cook-Dollarhide, NV 1964 Kerry Mansour, TX 1962 Kevin Lee Harris, MI 1980 Kim Aszklar, CT 1985 Kim Marth, CA 1957 Kim Murphy, CA 1975 Kim Rodriguez, CA 1979 Kim Trichel, KY 1982 Jeanne Radke, KY 1986 Kim Zimmer, OH 1971 Kimberley A. Elliott, NH 1971 Kimberly Immicke, TX 1994 Kitson Ferrari, FL 1964 Krista Petway, VA 2001 Kristan Ross, UT 1999 Kristen Heintzelman, MA 1977 Kristi Cappelto, FL Kristin Wernette, MI 1982 Kristina Campagna, PA 1976 Joanne DeHaven, PA 1978 Kristina Campagna, PA 1978 Kristina Geis, MA 1968 Kristina Sokolowski, MA 1968 Lanore Cutler Lewis, NY Laura D. Berry, LA 1970 Laura Dyke, IN Laura Lewis, VA 1967 Laura Pedersen, LA 1966 Laura Rothrock, PA 1968 Laura Schorsch, NE 1973 Laura Simon, NY 1975 Laurie Bentley, VA 1972 Laurie Clark, WI 1975 Laurie Heflin, NY 1968 Laurie Lombardi, OH 1968 Laurii Healey, PA 1981 Leanne Oliver, AZ 1989 Lee Brown, NY 1962 Lee Brown, NY 1964 LeeAnn Dossett, LA 1967 LeeAnn Reth, OH 1978 LeeAnn Turpin, OH 1968 Lena E. Winsor, NY 1932 Leona Brassell, CT 1965</p>	<p>Ronna Smith, OK 1978 Rosalie Nelson, PA 1966 Rosalie Slaughter, OH 1980 Rosalind Maya Lama, NY Rose Ann Chick, IL 1965 Rose, Ca 1968 Rosean Dean, TX 1971 Rosie Dudley, PA 1967 Roslyn Power LaPointe, NY 1963 Roxann Hickle, OH 1986 Roxanne Reese, MN 1976 Roxanne St. Peter Reese, MN, 1976 Roy J. Richards, DC 1963 Ruby Monroe, WI 1969 Ruby Murphey, OH 1965 Ruby Page, WA 1970 Russell Witten, OK 1980 Ruth Barber, NY 1968 Ruth Bell, IA 1963 Ruth Buckholtz, PA 1995 Ruth Mandigo, MA 1965 Ruth Moree, WV 1951 S. A. Ernst, MI 1970 S. MacClurg Vivian, NY 1961 Sally Howard, MI 1959 Sallybeth Jackson, MI 1956 Sandi Rath, IN 1978 Sandra Biggers, PA 1963 Sandra Bott, FL 1965 Sandra Deal, PA 1983 Sandra Edwards, NY 1949 Sandra Elliott, TX 1976 Sandra Funderburgh, TX 1963 Sandra Greene Camp, OK 1963 Sandra Henderson, MA 1964 Sandra Hughes Biggers, PA 1962 Sandra London-Wilcox, MI 1964 Sandra M.Lindstrom, MI 1972 Sandra Martin, CA 1967 Sandra Sendtko, NC 1971 Sandy Poynter, GA 1972 Sandy Rau, KS 1975 Sandy Sharkey, VA 1978 Sara Perkins, LA 1971 Sarita Schwedes, NJ 1976 Shannon Basore, CA 1982 Shannon Uriona, ID 1961 Sharon Baumgardner, NY 1951 Sharon C. Wemple, NY 1968 Sharon Cheney, TX 1966 Sharon Dutkevitch, PA 1990 Sharon Fieker, KS 1969 Sharon Grive, CA 1961 Sharon Heaslip, MI 1979 Sharon Keeling, IL 1966 Sharon L. Wray, NY 1968 Sharon LaPlant, IN 1962 Sharon Neesen, IN 1970 Sharon Pilcher, OH 1969 Sharon Roberts, NJ 1998 Sharon Roberts, TX 1992 Sharon Smith, CO 1995</p>
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Deborah Kelley, CT 1969	Lesley Jon, NJ 1986	Sharon Stein States, NY 1970
Deborah Kimec, OH 1979	Leslie Pate Mackinnon, FL 1967	Sharon Svoboda, LA 1968
Deborah Lillis, TX 1974	Lia Hoogenboom/Rodriguez, DC 1968	Sharon Terry, MD 1967
Deborah Monis, AL 1969	Lib Davis, OH 1970	Sharon Tully, FL 1966
Deborah Powell, SC 1972	Lin Barbier, AZ, 1967	Sharon Wallace, NY 1975
Deborah Sternaman, MI 1982	Linda Aceto, VA 1969	Sharon Wilburn, LA 1971
Deborah Thomasson, AL 1969	Linda Beck, AZ 1967	Sharyl Brannon, OR 1970
Deborah Zargham, AL 1978	Linda Beveridge, CA 1968	Sharyl Pratt, IN 1968
Debra Cameron, PA 1979	Linda Borden, NY 1976	Sharyn Hervey, HI 1965
Debra Cipollino, NY 1983	Linda Cameron, WI 1973	Sheila Adams, KY 1955
Debra Gibson, KY 1981	Linda Carpenter, NY 1965	Sheila Ganz, PA 1969
Debra Ginger, IN 1955	Linda Cebulski, IL 1967	Sheila Spencer, KS 1986
Debra Kiser, CA 1970	Linda Clausen, RI 1961	Shelley Wilson, TX 1977
Debra Lawson-Fields, CA 1973	Linda DeBerry, OH 1980	Shelley Wilson, TX 1987
Debra Martin Davis, IA 1972	Linda Elvin, IL 1967	Sherel Sue Kissell, PA 1968
Debra Nuckolls, WV 1985	Linda Fausel, WI 1977	Sheri Nye, OH 1973
Debra Nuckolls, WV 1987	Linda Follett, OR 1965	Sherry Benjamin, IN 1978
Debra Rose, IL 1970	Linda Freeman, NJ 1971	Sherry Benjamin, TX 1979
Debra Schulman, LA 1976	Linda Freeman, WA 1967	Sherry Cooper, OR 1983
Debra Wilson, MI 1973	Linda Garis-Fletcher, CA 1986	Sheryl Anapol, NJ 1966
Deitrah Stewart, IL 1961	Linda Gilbert, NY 1970	Shirlee Knox, FL
Delayn Curtis, CA 1968	Linda Gipson, MI 1961	Shirley Gibbs, MI 1965
Delita Wright, FL 1968	Linda Gordn, NJ 1970	Shirley Matos, PA 1983
Della Yocum, AR 1967	Linda Harvey, MI 1960	Shirley Reed, CT 1973
Delores J. Dodd, MI 1967	Linda Harvey, MI 1964	Shirley Roben, IA 1962
DeLura Dowda, AL 1965	Linda Higley, IL 1969	Shirley Smith, TX 1973
DeLura Dowda, AL 1965	Linda Hodge, NM 1981/82/83	Shirley Woods, OR 1965
Denise Garcia, VA 1972	Linda J. Woods, NY 1981	Sonia Gray Davis, NY 1965
Denise L. Roessle, CA 1970	Linda Jeanne Vecchio, FL 1965	Sonja Wayne, MI 1967
Denise Marconi Leitch, PA 1969	Linda Jessie, IN 1972	Sonya McGahen, LA 1978
Denise McLaughlin, FL 1966	Linda Jo Baker Lottie 1971	Stacy Moore, TN 1969
Denise McLaughlin, FL 1967	Linda K Chalmers, WA 1967	Stanlie Wykoff, OR 1964
Denise Novak, NH 1974	Linda K Chalmers, WA 1981	Starr Grisim, OR 1974
Denise, FL 1966	Linda McGurl, MA 1967	Starr Lara, WA 1975
Diana Hiipakka, VA 1967	Linda McMahan Gale, WA 1971	Starr Lara, WA 1975
Diana Keller, KS 1970	Linda Minardi, NJ 1968	Stephanie Hinkle, CA 1998
Diane Bailey-Shipp, VA 1972	Linda Mori, GA 1984	Stephanie Malone, TX 1990
Diane Baker, OK 1998	Linda Orozco, CA 1967	Stephanie Mueller, NY 1969
Diane Beck Lane, FL 1963	Linda Owens, KY 1971	Sue Alexander, TX 1965
Diane E. Fowler, CT 1969	Linda Pendergast, LA 1968	Sue Bolan, NJ 1965
Diane Giampapa, NY 1967	Linda Rider, MI 1984	Sue Eagle, VA 1973
Diane Hernandez, NV 1981	Linda S. Hurd, PA 1969	Sue Fessenden, WA 1960
Diane Mallette, IL 1981	Linda Slade, NY 1976	Sue Jones, IA 1968
Diane Norris, NY 1969	Linda Spratt, IA 1968	Susan (Harvey) Karter, NY 1972
Diane Parks, NH 1967	Linda Stephan, CA 1947	Susan A. Henry, MA 1965
Diane Santana, CT 1966	Linda Thornton, NM 1970	Susan Anthony, WI 1967
Diane Saunders, MA 1964	Linda Vommaro, PA 1969	Susan Becque, TX 1959
Diane Scott-Olsen, MN 1973	Linda Walker, WA 1969	Susan Bentley, CA 1966
Diane Siron, GA 1971	Linda Webber, CA 1969	Susan Braswell, MD 1969
Diane Turski, MN 1968	Linette Ivanovitch, WA 1984	Susan Brennan, NY 1978
Diane Van Atta, NY 1965	Linn Page, OH 1965	Susan Cameron, AR 1965
Diane Wheeler, OH 1964	Lisa Ann Matthews, NC 1980	Susan Chuesberg, WA 1969
Diane Zellhart Rhodes, PA 1967	Lisa Hernandez, TX 1973	Susan Cotton, WI 1968
Dianne LeLean Brown, OK 1966	Lisa Jordan, TX 1981	Susan D'Amico, MD 1973
Dianne Mangum, IA 1969	Lisa Kniffin, NY 1960	Susan Dearolf, LA 1970
Dina Beaty, TX 1983	Lisa Mayer, TX 1987	Susan Duffy, DC 1968
Dixie, NJ 1980	Lisa McDaniel, TN 1975	Susan Edwards, GA 1977
Dixie, NY 1980	Lisa Merritt, IA 1979	Susan Garrahan, NY 1970
Dolores Dias Green, TX 1987	Lisa Newton, NV 1981	Susan Gritz Licht, NY 1965
Dona Tracy, NY 1965	Lisa Til, NY 1990	Susan Henry, MA
Dondi Wheelan, CA 1962	Lisa Wheeler, MA 1979	Susan Hermanowycz, IL 1986
Donna Bensen, CA 1965	Lise Shumski, MA 1981	Susan Karger, MA

Donna C. Gray, NC 1975	Lise Van Deusen, UT 1972	Susan King Daniels, NC 1978
Donna Chagnon, NH 1974	Lita Soule, CA 1978	Susan L. Spry, WA 1968
Donna Dzinski, SC 1978	Liz Sheader, CA 1969	Susan Leontii, CA 1979
Donna Edwards, OH 1968	Lois Anderson, IL 1984	Susan McCauley, OK 1972
Donna Hull, VA 1985	Lois McDonald, CA 1961	Susan Mello-Souza, MA 1968
Donna Humphrey, TX 1963	Lola Wong Wing, IL 1968	Susan Miller, NY 1981
Donna L. Goguen, MA 1976	Lori Carangelo, CT 1968	Susan Nicoulin Elliot, KY 1972
Donna Lee Weiss, IN 1966	Lori Diane Sands, WA 1974	Susan Pohl, OK
Donna Lee Wilkins, MI 1964	Lori Jo Tucker, AZ 2000	Susan Potter, MA 1981
Donna Mae Hatch, ID 1976	Lori Lynch, TN 1977	Susan Scarinzi, NJ 1974
Donna Milstead, LA 1974	Lori, FL 1966	Susan Scarinzi, NJ 1976
Donna Nardone, VA 1985	Lorianne Neal, NE 1963	Susan Sookoor, PA 1968
Donna O'Brien, NY 1977	Lorie Norman, TX 1987	Susan Tatum, CO 1980
Donna Ritchie Adams, OH 1969	Lorna, CA 1965	Susan Thoenes, OR 1967
Donna Rowe, TX 1969	Lorraine Dusky, NY 1966	Susan White, MA 1973
Donna Valdivia, CA 1972	Lorraine T. Maloney, NY 1966	Susan Woodward-Boone, CA 1945
Donna Wilson/Herner, KY 1980	Lorreta Gorman, NY 1968	Susan Yardley, MA 1966
Donnarae DeWeese, OH 1963	Louann Fuller, AZ	Susanne Sadowski, MI 1965
Dore, CA 1966	Louisa White, VA 1968	Suzanne Donald, NY 1974
Doreen Faber, TX 1977	Louise (Penny) Wilson, IN 1976	Suzanne Shoop, LA 1960
Doreen Faber, TX 1977	Louise Iushewitz, MI 1969	Taja Beane, IL 1983
Dorene L. Morin, RI 1965	Louise Jaxel, AZ 1983	Tamara Davies, CA 1982
Doris 'Marie' Reich, MD 1978	Louise Lott, SC 1968	Tamara Johnston, NM 1975
Dorothy J. Berry, OK 1966	Louise Morris, DC 1971	Tammie Roberts, CA 1974
Dorothy Price, FL 1952	Louise Pepper, AZ 1981	Tammy Fink, MD 1943
Dorothy Simanikas, VA 1983	LuAnn Byrd, WA 1983	Tammy Miller, SC 1982
Dorothy Simanikas, VA 1986	LuAnn Byrd, WA 1983	Tammy Morrical, IN 1975
Dorothy Solis, CA 1969	Lucy Schrimsher, OR 1978	Tammy Quade, TX 1984
Dorothy Todd, PA 1973	Lucy, LA 1981	Tammy Russell, CA 1973
Dottie Ann Ridenour, MI 1975	Lyn Heidel, CO 1977	Tammy Stone, TX 1983
E. A. Verkler, IL 1970	Lynda Artusio, MD 1980	Tammy Street, NC 1970
E. Shearin, NJ	Lynette Constant, CA 1996	Tammy Street, NC 1971
Earl Murphy, LA 1968	Lynita Zajack, OK 1974	Tarin Taylor, KS 1999
Eileen Baum, CA 1970	Lynn Carter, OH 1966	Tawny Cardell-Northern, AR 1970
Eileen Drennen, CA 1976	Lynn Manning, SC 1979	Teresa Bushek, TX 1985
Eleanor Whitmore, MI 1966	Lynn Manning, SC 1981	Teresa Haney-Parsons, NJ 1984
Elisa Menocal Barton, PA 1976	Lynn Rillon, OR 1980	Teresa Lindholm, WA 1989
Elise Baer, NJ 1970	Lynn Tremblay, SC 1978	Teresa Mayes, TX 1977
Elisha Stancil, SC 1987	Lynn Underwood, TX 1972	Teresa Mennie, WA 1964
Elizabeth Allen, CA 1981	M. Ann Rutledge, IN 1966	Teri Golley, NH 1982
Elizabeth Avens, TN 1975	M. Davis, LA 1977	Terri Holder, TN 1976
Elizabeth Ballew, FL 1968	Mabel Renoe, TX 1958	Terri Leber, WA 1971
Elizabeth Frigerio, NJ 1975	Madeline Morris, CA 1959	Terri Winters, MI 1959
Elizabeth Hope, WA 1998	MaDonna Holmes, MN 1956	Terri, OH 1984
Elizabeth Hung, CA 1976	Maggie Strickland, TX 1972	Terrie Cooper, IL 1968
Elizabeth LaSalle, NY 1962	Mara Velaquez-Clayton, FL 1966	Terry Odem, TX 1969
Elizabeth Maes, CA 1970	Marcelyn Todd, CO 1965	Teryna Boffo, ND 1969
Elizabeth McKenna, NJ 1981	Marcie Keithley-Roth, PA 1978	Thelma Roth, MI 1966
Elizabeth McLean, NC 1966	Margaret Dailey, VA 1981	Theresa Martin, AR 1985
Elizabeth Paladino, NY 1967	Margaret Guley, OH	Theresa Morris, KY
Elizabeth Shaver-LaMonda, MI 1980	Margaret Hayes, IA 1972	Theresa Morris, VA 1977
Elizabeth Smith, IL 1976	Margaret Hill, PA 1966	Thomas Head, AL
Elizabeth Steen, NY 1982	Margaret Hornback, SC 1973	Thurmon McCoy, SC 1971
Elizabeth Taber, LA 1979	Margaret LyBurtis, MI 1966	Tiffany Dotson, TX 1980
Elizabeth Telesco, NY 1966	Margaret LyBurtus, CA	Tilara Yawn, IN 1969
Elizabeth Thomason, OK 1974	Margaret LyBurtus, CA	Tim Lockhart, MI
Ellen Durant, NY 1951	Margaret Mesa, AZ 1955	Tina Clark, ID 1986
Ellen King, TX 1980	Margaret Smith, OH 1967	Tina Jewell-Gardner, KS 1986
Ellen Kirk, PA 1975	Margaret Toppenberg, CO 1970	Tina Marie Wilson, AZ 1984
Ellen Moritz, NY 1978	Margaret, OH 1974	Tina McClelland, SC 1974
Emma Jane Crowley, FL 1968	Margarita Brice, NY 1979	Tina Rutherford, OR 1989
Emma Jane Crowley, VA 1968	Mariann Palmer, PA 1973	Tina Rutherford, OR 1991

<p>Eric Babcock, NY 1991 Esther Morgan, PA 1968 Eva Marie Heath, IN 1990 Evelyn Arpke, LA 1956 Evelyn Arpke, LA 1958 Evelyn Leblanc, NY 1972 Felicia Gromes, NY Florence Wheeler, OK 1966 Frances Kinney, NY 1958 Frances Scalise, PA 1960 Frances White Rose, PA 1970 Francey Green, NY 1968 Gail Lee Day, CA 1967 Gail Sanders, PA 1966 Gail Yahya, NY 1966 Gale Munden, CA 1966 Gayla Shreve, KS 1979 Gayle Davis, CO 1969 Gayle Singletary, NC Gayle Yahya, NY 1966 Georgia McClure, LA 1951 Geraldine Keeney, NY 1971 Geraldine Rekowski, IL 1972 Geraldine Borwey, IL 1972 Geri Jordan Hemby, CA 1963 Geri Krueger, WI 1971 Gerri Bitz, CA 1980 Gertie Mae Wilke, TN 1966 Gertrude Wallace, MD 1962 Gigi Mason, WA 1991 Gina Edwar, PA 1985 Ginger S. Ehrhart, PA 1969 Ginger Stone, NE 1963 Glen Frazer, CA 1973 Glenda Shay, PA 1963 Glenda Videan, PA 1967 Gloria Bingel, RI 1970 Gloria Wheeler, LA 1962 Grace Chodkowski, FL 1965 Grace Jollimore, NY 1966 Grace LaColla, NY 1966 Gregg Eilber, MI 1958 Gretchen Bickert, MI 1981 Gwen Hoffman, NY 1960 Gwinetta Crowell, TX 1966</p>	<p>Marianne Morgan, KY 1964 Maribel, NY Marie Barron, CO 1961 Marie Bonnstetter, NC 1951 Marie C. Trail, SC 1966 Marie Kanan, WA 1967 Marigrace Swierzynski, MN 1990 Marilee Joseph, NY 1978 Marilyn Austin, NY 1971 Marilyn Carver, MI 1963 Marilyn Eddy Ashe, NY 1968 Marilyn Guy, OK 1983 Marilyn Hayes, RI 1968 Marilyn Maracle, NY 1970 Marilyn Maracle, NY 1971 Marilyn McCown, CA 1979 Marilyn McCoy, CA 1972 Marilyn McCoy, OK 1983 Marilyn Rose, FL 1960 Marilyn Tausz-Nieto, AZ 1966 Marilyn Waugh, AZ 1970 Marilyn Weitz, NJ 1962 Marion Conklin, NY 1965 Marion Duswalt-Pinney, NJ 1971 Marissa, TX 1989 Marjorie Culbertson, NV 1960 Marjorie J. Spangler, NV 1960 Marjorie Schultz, MA 1958 Marla Miller, IL 1970 Marla Walcott, WV 1981 Marlene Howell, MI 1985 Marlene Howell, MI 1986 Marlene Ryan, NJ 1960 Marlys Phillips, CO 1956 Marlys Rasmussen, CA 1974 Marsh Wood-Walters, NJ 1969 Marsha Bailey, VA 1971 Marsha Montgomery, VA 1973 Marsha Montgomery, VA 1973 Martha Hinman, OR 1996 Martha Scott Phipps, NY 1966 Martin, PA 1948 Marva Pridgen, NY 1969 Marvin Pippin, MD 1965 Mary Anne Cohen, NJ 1968</p>	<p>Toni Childers, VA 1968 Toni Wentz, IL 1970 Tracey Converse, AR 1970 Tracy Moyers, CA 1981 Tracy Muscatello, PA 1979 Tricia Marty, ID 1984 Valary Forney, TX 1976 Valerie Drabyk, NJ, 1962 Vanessa Chassot, VA 1997 Verna Nesom, TX 199 Veronica Boudreau, CA 1964 Veronica Krueger, IL 1962 Veronica McEntee, NY 1970 Vicki Carter, OH 1981 Mary Margerson, OH 1982 Vicki King, IL 1971 Vicki Miller, CA 1966 Vickie Ellis, NC 1988 Vickie Norcross-Ellis, NC 1988 Vicky Kroh, PA 1969 Victoria D. Black, CA 1967 Victoria D. Black, NY 1968 Victoria Gailinas, NY 1979 Victoria Hardy, MD Victoria Lawson, CA 1973 Victory Thronson, IN 1959 Violet Jacoby, IN 1964 Virginia Bacon, MI 1965 Virginia Hanson, PA 1974 Wanda Clark, OH 1974 Wanda Lee Fuller, FL 1956 Wanda Morgan, TX 1962 Wanda Phelps, OK 1993 Wanda V. Jones, VA 1975 Warren Alexander, TX 1979 Warren Mass, NJ 1967 Wendy Fouse, WI 1985 Wendy Gilkerson, PA 1969 William Guinan, PA 1968 Wilma Norman, VA 1969 Wilma Norman, VA 1970 Wilma O'Keeffe, NY 1954 Yvonne Leist-Creswell, WI 1968 Yvonne Shower, FL 1966 Zoe Farmer, TX 1971</p>
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November 2, 2023

TO: Michigan House of Representatives
RE: HB 5148 & HB5149

Dear Representative Grant and Representative Outman,

My name is Katie Bozek, and I am an international, transracial adult adoptee. I am a licensed marriage and family therapist serving the greater Grand Rapids, MI area. I am also the executive director of the Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network (KAAN), which is a national non-profit that provides support to adoptees and their families through education and dialogue. I am writing in support of HB 5148 and HB 5149 that will provide adult adoptees with access to their original birth certificate.

In the work that I have done individually, professionally and as a volunteer for KAAN I have experienced the heartbreak and struggles that come along with not knowing your origins. Adoptees are people who have a right to know who they come from. For themselves, and for future generations.

The adoption landscape has changed over the years. The reasons why children are adopted, and how their lived experiences of being an adoptee are navigated through have changed. HB5148 and HB5149 reflects these changes and the need for access to their original birth certificate.

It is difficult to articulate to non-adopted people what it is like to not know who or where you come from. There is another layer of struggle and emotions that come along with knowing that there is a document somewhere that can provide some answers and validate your existence, but you cannot have access to it because the government deems another person as more important.

For years adoptees around the U.S. have been working to center adoptee voices and experiences when talking about adoption, rather than asking adoptive parents, first families, or those who may work within the adoption business. Adoptees are the experts when it comes to what the experience of being an adoptee is like. It is my hope that you will listen to the adoptees who are asking for access to one piece of their origin story.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Bozek, Ph.D." in a cursive style.

Katie Bozek, Ph.D., LMFT



February 14, 2024

Dear Honorable Senators,

I am the Founder, CEO, and Clinical Director of FindSelf Counseling, and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the states of Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. I started FindSelf Counseling to train and provide clinical supervision to emerging Social Work professionals to specialize in issues of trauma, sexual and domestic violence, post adoption, eating disorders, DNA discoveries, and identity development. My experience includes work as a Prevention Coordinator and victim advocate at rape crisis centers and private practice psychotherapy with trauma survivors, including sexual assault. Currently I am a member of TX Council for Family Violence, TX Association Against Sexual Assault, NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault, National Association of Social Workers, and the Carolina Center for Eating Disorders. I have volunteered with advocacy efforts to provide access to original birth certificates for adult adoptees for more than 25 years and in 2015 co-founded Support Texas Adoptee Rights (STAR), a 501c-4 nonprofit organization dedicated to the same. I am also an adopted person, reunited with my biological family for 25 years. I write today to express my support for HB 5148 and HB 5149.

In all of these 25 years, every argument I have heard against passing similar legislation has been based on fear, misinformation, or simple misunderstanding of how the current law works, as well as outdated notions about adoption; including the reasons OBCs were sealed, why people want them, why first/birth parents choose adoption, and why adoptive families stick together. Furthermore, words like “privacy”, “confidentiality”, and “anonymity” are frequently used interchangeably, and incorrectly, without the appropriate context.

For example, contrary to what some may say, adoption is not anonymous, nor has it ever been. Although an agency or an attorney can say that records will be held confidential, they cannot assert that no one, ever, at any time, will ever find out any of that information. That would be an unreasonable assertion outside of their (and anyone’s) scope. Anonymity would imply that no information about the client (in this case the birthparent/s) was collected and/or kept at all. The closest anyone can get to anonymity is to utilize a designated Safe Haven location, however even that has no guarantee that no one, ever, at any time, will ever find out their origin story. Increasingly, stories are being publicized in the media about ‘abandoned’ infants growing up and locating family through direct to consumer DNA testing. To say that denying adults access to their OBCs would somehow prevent identification of the birthparent/s is to purposefully disregard what is currently occurring in our society. Direct to customer DNA testing has revolutionized the way that people learn about their family trees. Any discussion about ‘anonymity’ or a ‘lifetime of confidentiality’ in adoption is made moot by the explosion of DNA testing and the usage of social media to advertise searches.



The experiment of closed records has failed (many agencies don't even do closed adoptions anymore) and has been enormously damaging to individuals and families. We now know that this legal effort to hide information does nothing but foster secrecy, fear, and shame, for all parties involved. When people are told they cannot have access to information, they do not simply give up. The closed records system has forced families separated by adoption to turn to less confidential methods of reunification- posting private information on social media, and inadvertent reunions through DNA match technology. It is no longer a question of *whether* people will be identified, but more often of *when* and *how*. Furthermore, this lack of access to vital personal information has posed severe challenges for adopted people, making it difficult to obtain passports, driver's licenses, and marriage licenses in some situations. Ultimately, this isn't about reunion, it's about having the right to know your heritage and have access to basic personal information that most non adopted people take for granted.

These are not competing rights. This is not about taking options away from people, rather it is about liberating the collective from policies and systems that keep people living in fear. We cannot forever "protect" people from the truth of their origins (least of all adults), which is a patriarchal and oppressive concept. Adults are autonomous individuals who will endlessly seek the truth, despite all obstacles and odds. To do so by default opens one up to discover information that may be frightening to oneself – whether that be a sexual assault in the family, or some other similarly upsetting information. Survivors are NOT compelled by this legislation to disclose anything about their own story, or anything else they choose to keep private. Sexual and domestic violence THRIVE on secrecy, shame, and fear – ideas that are further reinforced by keeping information from people. Let us not continue to perpetuate that system, but speak the truth and set ourselves free.

To put it bluntly, We didn't ask for any of this. What adult adopted people are asking for their own legal document, the same one as everyone else. ***The secrets are the problem, not the person.***

Sincerely,

Katy Perkins Coveney, LCSW-S
director@findselfcounseling.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Honorable Roberta B. Beavers, MBA, MA
Maine State Representative – American Adoption Congress, 2001-Present
72 Woodland Hills
South Berwick, ME 03908
207-748-3432
bobbibeavers@me.com

February 14, 2024

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

I am Roberta Beavers of South Berwick, Maine. I co-authored the Maine Adoptee Human Rights Law that passed in 2007 (effective date January 1, 2009, due to rulemaking process), three years prior to being elected to the Maine House of Representatives, from which I retired in December 2016. **I write in support of HB5148/HB5149 in relation to the original birth records of adult adopted people.**

I am a birthmother whose son was conceived in rape in 1965 and I still wanted to know my son. It took me nearly 30 years to accept the responsibility I had to my son despite having surrendered my parental rights. Thanks to joining an adoption triad support group and reading every adoption related book I could get my hands on, especially one by adoptive mother Nancy Verrier - *Primal Wound*, I finally understood the importance of the original birth certificate to adults who were adopted as infants or children. Most birthmothers do not understand this importance when they relinquish their child - which is usually done under great duress. Personally, I find it difficult to understand how any woman could want to be protected from her own child. Adoptees are the only citizens, except for those in the witness protection program, in the US whose original birth certificates are sealed from them except in Kansas and Alaska, who never sealed them, and now many other states that have passed access laws since 1999. The statistics in the states that have allowed this access for adult adoptees indicate that adoptions have remained the same or increased and abortions have decreased since these states allowed adult adoptees access to their original birth certificate and less than 1% of the birthmothers signed a contact preference expressing unwillingness to have contact.

This is a **human rights/social justice issue** for adoptees because they had no say in the matter as an infant or child. This bill does **NOT** open the information to the public, only to the adult adoptees that request it. Some adoptees just want the “deed to their personhood,” but do not wish to search. Others want their genetics and/or genealogy. For many it is a life and death issue related to medical circumstances. The bill provides a contact preference for those birthparents who do not wish to be contacted but requires them to provide updated medical history. Mutual consent registries do not work if any of the parties are deceased or incapacitated. The strength of my son’s relationship with his loving and caring adoptive family has increased since our reunion in 1995. In the New Jersey triad support group in which I was a member for over 5 years, there was not one person who was sorry they searched even if they found rejection, death, mental illness, and other devastating results. It was their **truth**.

The child first! Please support HB5148/HB5149.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Roberta B Beavers, aka Bobbi

February 14,2024

Dear Chair Chang & Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Johnston & I live in Stephenville, Texas. I am a 47 year old mother of 4, a grandmother, a Christian & a passionate supporter of adult adoptee civil rights. I have worked with Supprt Texas Adoptee Rights on adult adoptee rights & resoring original birth certificate access with a contact preference form in Texas for over 10 years. I have provided letters & testimony to our state legislators on many occassions in support of restoring access to adoptee original birth certificates & to tell those lawmakers that I do NOT need to be protected from my own DNA. I am writing in support of HB5148/HB5149 & ask that you vote yes to restore adult adoptee access to their original birth records & to the contact preference form for birthparents.

I am many things beyond that very brief description above, including a birthmother twice over. I placed a daughter in 1996, when I realized that I would be parenting alone on one income as a full time student. I knew that was the best decision for her & her big sister, that was 18 months old at the time. I chose an agency that encouraged semi-open adoptions, so that she would have access to her first family through regular letters & photos as a minor & access directly, should she choose that as an adult. That agreement was a lie made by the agency & I was left without access or info after a short 2 years. After 15 years, the adoptive paernts secrets about me & the info they hid from her thought lies crumbled. She found her big sister online. I honored my promise to her parents to not have direct contact until she was 18 & we connected only minutes into her 18th birthday. We have grown very close & on the 21st of this month I will stand next to her husband in the delivery room as my grandson is born. We are inseparable & do not need to be protected from each other.

In 1998, after a very brutal rape, I found I was pregnant & adoption was the only logical choice for my son. As a mother, I could not bear to look in the face of a child daily & risk that my choices would be determined by the damage that brutality caused. No child deserves that risk in my opinion & it would be years before I felt whole & able to see him as a separate person from the rape. I chose an agency that required open connections as part of their acceptance process for adoptive & placing parents. The couple I chose maintained our direct contact for 18 years & beyond. We have all become family & the 3 of them joined us when the daughter I placed got married in 2023. We stood as one family! As parents of both adults & their siblings, we freely visit, communicate & are available for the good, bad & ugly of life.

I mention the semi-open & open adoption agreements I made, because that was the reason I could accept adoption as a valid option! My children deserved that! I have several adopted family members & friends who I have seen struggle with the lack of connection, health information & many other issues that are common for adoptees as they become teens & adults. As a mother, I knew connections were best left intact in some way for them, for their borthsiblings, no matter if I was included in that connection as they became adults. I never chose adoption as a way to hide from, avoid or forget about my own children! I never chose adoption to escape identification or to free myself from their questions! I was never promised any of those things & have not met a birthparent who has been.

A few people have tried to tell me why they think I should be protected from society with secrecy & sealed records over the years, but not a single reason they have come up with ended in factual information or an actual concern on my end! I have been told that birthparents are promised that they will not be bothered, never be found, never be contacted, never be outed publicly & never have to have a relationship with the adults they placed as children. With DNA options & people holding signs on social media, there is zero chance that an adult adoptee who is determined to find their truth will be hindered by a simple sealed record. You see, the public has access to far better connecting information in those DNA tests & crowd source type searches than any original birth certificate!

As reasonable adults & as a birthmother, you & I should consider how a rape victim, a shamed teenager, a hidden girl who was sent to live with family far away would WANT to be found. Would it be because their cousin was contacted on Ancestry after a DNA test or because a social media post with a photo of someone (who is the spitting image of the birthparent) & dates/location that match up with that trip to live with an aunt far away? Absolutely not! These birthparents want contact options & the courtesy of chosing to share details of a placement on their own terms or saying that they do not want contact at all. It is extremely disrespectful to make such a big decision on their behalf, because someone who has not been raped, never placed or never been an adoptee says it is "better". I am tired of being told I should be protected from my own DNA! I am fed up with being told that an adoptee was denied a passport because their ammended birth certificate isn't proof that they are a citizen & the info needed to access is unknown. Their first legal indetification & health documents should be their property, after all they did NOT sign away their rights on the parental rights relinquishment forms!

As a birthmother to a son conceived by rape, I support unsealed records on every level! He deserves his truth no matter his origins! I deserve to share the details of my choices & placements on my terms or not at all. Restoring access with the contact form is the ONLY way to ensure our voices are heard & rape victims derserve to NEVER have a choice so personal stripped from them again. I pray you listen to the actual victims, not just someone who says they represent them.

Lisa Johnston
214-563-8288
oneofakindkaraoke@gmail.com

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Stephanie Chang

Chair, Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety

Binsfeld Office Building, Room 1200, Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety,

I am Brooke Van Prooyen, represented by Senator Bill Huizenga. I am a birthmother who supports HB5148/HB5149 giving equal rights to adult adoptees in accessing their vital birth record.

I was a young mother of two and recently separated when I found myself pregnant. I was terrified and ashamed to have gotten myself into this position. I never imagined how the decisions I was about to make would forever define mine and my son's existence. The only guidance I received came from the private agency and attorney paid for by the adoptive family.

I was not prepared for how traumatic the experience of relinquishment would be. I was discharged from the hospital just 24 hours after giving birth. I walked out of the doors, and without any proper goodbye my son, he was placed into a vehicle. I stood frozen and confused as he was driven away by his new mother. As for me, I was driven to an attorney's office that I had never met. I was hysterically crying and physically unable to sign. I remember this attorney growing frustrated and telling me "You really needed to get these papers signed so you can go home to see your own children." I was defeated. I signed the documents and was immediately dropped off at the airport. I stood alone, having just given birth, fearing what I had just done. I vowed to never speak about my son again, telling myself "The shame you feel, and meeting that awful attorney were all consequences of your bad choices." I tried blocking out the pain by keeping the promises I made to my son to be a better person and mother to his siblings. And that would be better off with his new family. Looking back, I wish the young me knew I wasn't a bad person or mother, and my son wasn't better for not knowing me.

In 2005, I randomly looked up the word adoption in the yellow pages. Adoptive Family Support Network was the first business listed with a number for a warmline. A volunteer answered, and I uttered for the first time "I am a birthmom" and began sobbing. She let

me cry for as long as I needed and asked me if I would come to their office and meet the director. Somehow, I agreed. The woman who answered the warmline was an adoptee who hadn't ever met her own birthmother, and the director was an adoptive mother. They made me feel worthy and wanted, even knowing I was a birthmother. Today, I am the leader of that organization and have spent the last 17 years trying to make that same space for others to heal. I have built what has become the largest statewide network for adoptive, foster, and kinship families across Michigan. The forefront of my work is dedicated to supporting adoptive parents so they can best support the needs of their adopted children.

In 2022, I briefly unsuccessfully reunited with my son. He has struggled with finding his identity. Decisions were made for my son by me, his adoptive parents, the agency, lawyer, laws, and so much more that prevented him from a healthy self-identity formation. Even if well intentioned at the time, keeping accessible information away robbed him of building a healthy identity formation, healing.

Outdated government laws and red tape shouldn't be the gatekeeper of secrets from adult adoptees. They deserve the equal right to have access to their own vital records and to choose how they proceed with information. Attempting to protect the privacy of birthparents shouldn't still be trumping the wellbeing and basic human rights of adoptees to know who they are. Most birthparents never wanted this "protection" in the first place. Adoption research has shown birthmothers with closed adoptions most often do not wish for the government to continue "protection of their rights to privacy" from their adult adopted children. What we want is for them to be courageous in deciding for themselves. I urge you to stand in support of HB 5148 and HB 5149 giving all MI adult adoptees equity in the right to access their vital records and streamlining navigation of the process.

Respectfully,

Brooke Van Prooyen

Brooke Van Prooyen

Birthmother and Advocate for Adoptee Rights

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Stephanie Chang
Chair, Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety
Binsfeld Office Building, Room 1200
Lansing, Michigan 48933

RE: DO PASS ON HB5148 / HB5149

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

I am adopted as well as the product of rape. I also spoke to you briefly at one of your recent events. For years I sought to learn the truth of my origins and birth, and I hope to explain to members of the committee the complexity of this issue and its unique context. First, this issue is about a single piece of paper: my own birth record and whatever factual information appears on that record. It is not about relationships or contact, though contact with multiple family members is almost always necessary when there is no choice but to use various available tools, including private investigators, social media, and DNA—all simply to learn basic information that is on a birth record.

Ultimately, as my own experience demonstrates, providing the original birth record to the adopted person as an adult is the least intrusive and most discreet process to secure our unique adoptee identities.

To this day, I have no ability to obtain my own Michigan birth record under Michigan's law. When I first tried to obtain information through Michigan's complicated Confidential Intermediary system, I found it to be dehumanizing, humiliating, and traumatizing. Despite knowing some of my biological mother's name at the time of my birth, I had to use the CI system to try to get her current last name, which wasn't guaranteed. Instead, I gave up.

I turned to DNA, as it was simple and initially easy to use. My first biological relative I connected with through AncestryDNA was a fourth cousin, who also happened to be a genealogist. With her skills, she very quickly built a tree for me and discovered two possibilities for my biological father. While I had always been told that both of my biological parents were teenagers, the men we considered would have been 30 or 40 at the time of my birth. Nevertheless, after connecting with a half brother, we realized my father was the 30-year-old man.

Then two things happened close together. I had another half sister disclosed on Ancestry, who was also adopted. At the same time, a paternal niece, who had learned about my existence, decided to do DNA herself to find out more, and she soon became involved in my own search.

I was still feeling desperate for my own story and my need to know if my biological mother was OK. My niece started searching and, based on my genealogical tree, we determined that my biological mother's brother (my uncle) had a daughter who was on social media. We contacted her through social media, and she immediately messaged me with my biological mother's last name. She also said she would pass on my phone number to her.

My mother called me immediately and told me my story: that my dad was a friend of her mother and had forced himself on her after a party. She had hidden her pregnancy for seven months, trying to figure out how to keep me, but she ended up in an unwed mother's home. The only option she was given was to put me in an orphanage until she turned 18, though they could still terminate her parental rights and adopt me out. They told her how cruel that would be to me, so she signed the papers to relinquish me.

She returned to the unwed mother's home multiple times in the hope of receiving updates and pictures, but she was always turned away with empty hands along with cruel words and lies.

She had also hired private investigators over the years to try to find me. After I had turned 18 and didn't find her she decided to move out of state, thinking I either didn't know or didn't care to know. Though I was the product of rape, she told me I was the child she had loved and lost. She also told me how I sounded just like my grandmother, her mother. She had been in a dark place when I found her and told me I had saved her life because she was feeling she had nothing left to live for. She considers me the best thing she's ever done.

I am her only child; the trauma of relinquishing me left her with secondary infertility.

I ask for a do pass recommendation for HB5148/HB5149.

Pamela Lynn
Michigan Adoptee
23080 Sherman St.
Oak Park, Michigan 48237

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Stephanie Chang
Chair, Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety
Binsfeld Office Building, Room 1200
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Chang and Committee Members,

This letter is in support of House Bills 5148 and 5149. This critical human rights legislation when enacted will:

- Restore unrestricted access to the original birth certificate (OBC) for all adult adoptees;
- Establish access for legal representatives and direct descendants of deceased adopted persons; and
- Modernize Michigan's antiquated, discriminatory, and prohibitive records request system.

This legislation aims to repeal and simplify Michigan's existing complex and inequitable system, which restricts adult adopted persons from accessing their original birth record. The secrecy surrounding adoption is no longer acceptable today when information flows freely through social media, DNA testing, and genealogical records. These bills work to streamline the existing system and ensure adopted individuals can regain their right to access their original birth record.

Please **DO PASS** House Bills 5148 and 5149 and restore this civil right to Michigan's adult adoptee community. This legislation is long overdue.

Identical Twins, Adopted in 1980.
Thank you for your consideration,

Monica Sparks
Monica Sparks, Kent County Commissioner District 12

Jessica Ann Tyson
Jessica Ann Tyson, Kentwood City Commissioner Ward 2

3099 Broadmoor Ave SE Kentwood Mi 49512

Thank you for your consideration



November 1, 2023

Dear Representative Grant and Representative Outman,

I am writing to show support for HB 5148 and HB5149 which will restore the right of all Michigan adult adopted people access to their pre-adoption birth certificate.

As an adult adoptee who had no access to my birth records until I was 40, and then only granted partial access, I have struggled all of my life to make sense of who I am and where I came from. I lived with a sense of loss and incompleteness that led to many failed relationships, incomplete attempts at trying new things, and an inability to secure a sense of self and move forward in my adult life. How can you move forward when you don't truly know where you came from?

As an adoption studies scholar and activist I now use my story to advocate for the rights of every adoptee to access their full and complete original birth records. Research states that adopted people are 4x more likely than non-adopted peers to attempt or die by suicide as a result of trauma (Murray et al., 2022). The trauma experienced by adoptees whose origins continue to be shrouded in secrecy due to inflexible and antiquated laws is a public health crisis. But it is one that we can address by remembering that access to one's original birth certificate, the government document that records one's birth, is a fundamental right of every U.S. citizen.

Currently, this right is not given to all adoptees in the state of Michigan. This lack of equality robs adopted people of our identity, and continues to treat us, adult adoptees, as perpetual children without respect and dignity. Withholding access to original birth records perpetuates a dangerous pattern of control over the lives of those surrendered for adoption without their consent.

I know from personal experience the damage that is caused when access is denied and withheld and for this reason I fully support the passage of HB 5148 and HB 5149.

Sincerely,

Liz DeBetta, Ph.D.

University of Michigan

Affiliate Faculty, Institute for Research on Women and Gender

Diversity Scholars Network, National Center for Institutional Diversity

October 30th, 2023

Rep. Kristian Grant
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Rep. Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Representatives Grant and Outman,

I am writing in support of HB 5148 and HB 5149, which provide access to vital records, in particular the original birth certificate, for all adult adoptees from Michigan.

I am an adoption researcher and a clinical psychologist who specializes in foster care and adoption. Research with adopted people suggests that curiosity and a desire to know more about their origins is a common experience. Additionally, research shows that as adoptees enter adulthood, questions they have about family medical history become increasingly paramount. Adoption practices regarding openness and contact have changed substantially over the last 50 years. This has been due to both cultural shifts around adoption and also research that showed the potential benefits of openness and contact to all members of the adoption kinship network (adoptees, first/biological family, and adoptive family). Even beyond these research findings, knowing basic information about one's origins should be a universal right that adopted people can also access.

Within my clinical work, I have witnessed the positive impact that access to identifying information can have as adoptees move through identity development. Positive identity development and belonging are key aspects in the ability to thrive and access to original birth records are an important key step in those processes.

In summary, I strongly support the passage of HB 5148 and HB 5149.

Sincerely,



Emily Helder, PhD, LP
Professor of Psychology, Hope College

February 14th, 2024

To: The Honorable Stephaie Chang, Chair
and members of the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety
Binsfeld Office Building, Room 1200
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Chang and Committee Members,

This letter is in SUPPORT of House Bills 5148 and 5149. This critical human rights legislation, when enacted, will allow a small step towards healing for adopted individuals. As an adoptive parent of two children via domestic infant adoption and one child through foster care, I have listened to voices of adoptees who spent many years piecing-together the puzzle of their identity. Something I have no understanding of, being raised by parents whom I resembled, shared many similar traits with and had access to medical history.

Our now 13-year-old daughter, who was adopted in November of last year, will now have a birth certificate that holds the names of two individuals (my husband and I). We were not even in the same state she was born on her birthday (but you wouldn't know that by looking at her birth certificate). We are not her "mother" and "father." She knows them and was raised for 10 years by them. Her mother is still an active part of her life, yet her name is erased from her daughter's birth certificate. Through our agency, I asked for (and was fortunately able to obtain) her original birth certificate prior to adoption. Without this, she may never have seen her original. On her birthday, I can tell her exactly what time she was born. She can see her parents' names, the date issued, the hospital, etc. It was wonderful to see her face light up when she got to see this information. Not all children are this fortunate.

As adoptive parents, we were never told by our agency that we had the choice to NOT amend the birth certificate. All of our children have relationships with their biological families as we understand how important identity is for them. We are not the norm in how adopted children are raised, but we advocate in hopes that it will someday be.

It seems so unfair to children, whether adopted at birth, as children OR through foster care, that original birth certificates are not given to adoptive parents prior to 18 or readily available to adoptees at age 18. Adoptees did not ask to be placed for adoption. Adoptees did not ask to be raised by strangers. They did not ask to be removed from the only heartbeat they knew. They did not have a say in any of it. It is imperative that we listen to them NOW.

As the world changes and we better understand the trauma endured by adoptees and how biological connection is needed to thrive- hopefully more adoptive parents will attempt to bridge the relationship with biological families. Let's also take care of the generation of adoptees who were raised in secrecy and shame; expected to assimilate to their new family structure and ensure that everyone has equal access to their birth records. It is the first document of their lives that may help them complete a picture of who they were at their very first breath.

Thank you for reading and voting yes on HB5148 / HB5149.

Sarah C Williams,
Adoptive mother, open adoption advocate, adoptee advocate

November 2, 2023

Rep. Kristian Grant
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48909

Rep. Pat Outman
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: SUPPORT FOR MICHIGAN HB5148 AND HB5149

Dear Reps. Grant and Outman:

First, thank you for your support and work on these important adoptee rights bill, HB5148 and HB5149. I am writing to share my strong support for members of our greater community.

Serving over 45 years in education and retiring as the Superintendent of the Grand Rapids Public Schools, I know the importance of information and knowledge. Having access to one's birth certificate, as well as other information pertaining to their birth records are vital for growth. Giving access to adult adoptees to their original birth information is important. This can be the first step in a person having a greater learning and understanding of themselves. Access to original birth records should be a given right for all Michigan citizens. And, we see this as a crucial step which will lead to removing negative stereotypes that society has long associated with this.

As a society, we have learned through advanced bodies of research the importance of our social awareness of one-self. For many, information is the missing link to self-awareness, self-esteem, the sense of belonging and place. We also know the medical advances of today and the connection to having access to birth records are interwoven. In some cases, it can lead to a matter of extending a life.

Overall, our community as a whole, will witness the positive effects of the passage of HB5148 and 5149.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Weatherall Neal, President
Lead 616 Educational Consultant

Leadgr616@gmail.com

Date: February 14, 2024

To: Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks
Senator Stephanie Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety

Re: House Bills 5148 and 5149

This letter is in support of House Bills 5148 and 5149. This critical human rights legislation when enacted will:

- Restore unrestricted access to the original birth certificate (OBC) for all adult adoptees;
- Establish access for legal representatives and direct descendants of deceased adopted persons; and
- Modernize Michigan's antiquated, discriminatory, and prohibitive records request system.

This legislation aims to repeal and simplify Michigan's existing complex and inequitable system, which restricts adult adopted persons from accessing their original birth record. The secrecy surrounding adoption is no longer acceptable today when information flows freely through social media, DNA testing, and genealogical records. These bills work to streamline the existing system and ensure adopted individuals can regain their right to access their original birth record.

Please **DO PASS** House Bills 5148 and 5149. This legislation is long overdue.

Respectfully,

Kim Gates

Kim Gates
Kent County Democratic Party Chair
7135 McCords Ave SE
Alto, MI 49302

Date: February 14, 2024

To: The Honorable Stephanie Chang, Chair
The Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety

Re: House Bills 5148 and 5149

Dear Senator Chang and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of House Bills 5148 and 5149. This critical human rights legislation when enacted will:

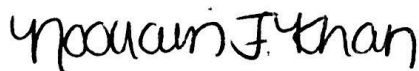
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This legislation aims to repeal and simplify Michigan's existing complex and inequitable system, which restricts adult adopted persons from accessing their original birth record. The secrecy surrounding adoption is no longer acceptable today when information flows freely through social media, DNA testing, and genealogical records. These bills work to streamline the existing system and ensure adopted individuals can regain their right to access their original birth record.

I am a proud Michigander and passionate about human rights and justice as an attorney, volunteer for young people, and social justice advocate. In my professional and volunteer work, I meet young people and adults across the country for whom the critical information about who they are, where they come from and their personal and family histories has a profound impact on their identity formation and life outcomes. This information is transformational and vital and it is imperative that Michigan is complicit in harmful and antiquated practices that are inconsistent with civil and human rights.

Please **DO PASS** House Bills 5148 and 5149 and restore this civil right to Michigan's adult adoptee community. This legislation is long overdue.

Very best,



Noorain F. Khan
708 8th St. NE
Washington, DC 20002

