



The Honorable Cody Harris Texas House of Representatives,

I am writing to express support for House Bill 2006 which will restore the right of all Texas adult adopted people access to their original aka 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 nearly 700 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 now is denied to adult adopted persons in Texas.

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."

HB 2006, if passed, would allow adult adopted persons to be treated with dignity, respect and as equals to non-adopted citizens in Texas to receive their original aka pre-adoptive birth certificate on demand like every other citizen. HB2006 will simplify the existing law. Representing Louisiana residents who are Texas born adopted people without a voice in the legislative process, We fully support HB 2006. 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.

Happy to answer any questions that you may have.  
Sincerely,

*Elise Lewis*

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