



Texas Coalition for Adoption Resources and Education
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February 16, 2023

Dear Texas Lawmaker:

Texas individuals touched by adoption – adult adoptees, their biological parents, their adoptive parents, and other relatives – have since the 1930s been lost to one another in an archaic closed and secret system of adoption. It's a travesty really. **That is what Texas HB 2006 will correct.**

Adoptees look in the mirror and wonder who they might look like, why they are unable to do something as simple as ask the state for their first factual birth certificate, what genetic anomaly could surprise at some point with health or other issues.

Biological mothers and fathers spend decades with a black hole in their knowledge of whether the surrendered baby might even still be alive, whether the new and unknown parents really nurtured and loved that baby, whether they have the right to even know. TxCARE has polled birthmothers in Texas and discovered that no young woman ever signed a surrender document requesting lifetime “privacy” or “protection” from the adoptee.

Adoptive parents realize that they, too, need more information: About the child's ancestry for medical history if nothing else. That's why most adopting couples choose an “open” adoption today; they want that knowledge. One perceptive adoptive mother famously has written a book about the “primal wound” of separation that shadows an adoptee for a lifetime.

Members of TxCARE have been steadily working to eliminate the secrecy in Texas adoptions and restore the adoptee's *right* of access to birth certificates since the 1990s along with other groups that advocate for such a law. Here's a bit of history that may shock the Texas lawmakers of today: **Before the New Millennium, TxCARE created an adoptee rights resolution that we took to the Platform Committees of both the Texas GOP and Texas Democratic Parties. Both of these major political parties included the Resolution (see Resolution attached) in their election platforms and that Resolution's declarations are as valid today as they were then.**

Texas House Bill 2006 enjoys bi-partisan support, and it is past the time to end almost a century of adoption secrecy in Texas and the dismissal of an adoptee's right to have unrestricted right to their birth certificates. As we say at TxCARE: Adoptees Deserve Their Original Birth Certificates.

The following TxCARE Officers and Board Members strongly urge you to vote YES for HB 2006 during this session of the Texas Legislature:

Alicia Lanier, TxCARE Co-Founder/Founding President (Birthmother from Irving, Tx)
Nancy Schaefer, Past President (Adoptee/Birthmother from Aubrey, TX)

Continued on next page

Supporting Members, continued:

Terry Welch, Past President (Adoptee from Kilgore, TX)
Cynthia Daun Smith, Co-Founder/Webmaster (Adoptee from Houston, TX)
Belinda Harrell Bellomy (Birthmother from Garland, TX)
Penny Mendez (Adoptee from Benbrook, TX)
Charlene Snodgrass (Adoptee from Dallas, TX)
Terry Parish (Adoptee/Birthmother from New Braunfels, TX)
Barbara Cornelius (Original Mother from Richardson, TX)
Daria Dato MBA, MSSW, LCSW (Professional from Denton, TX)
Martha J. Fralia (Adoptee from Fort Worth, TX)
Deb McAlister Holland (Adoptee, Adoptive Parent & Grandparent from Longview, TX)

Attached: TxCARE Resolution