

# HB5148 (Rep. Grant) • HB5149 (Rep. Outman)

Hearing packet organized by the Michigan Coalition for Adoptee Rights

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### Initial Content

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### Testimony in Support

**Ned Andree.** Michigan-born adoptee, teacher, community organizer  
**Brooke Van Prooyen.** Birthmother, program coordinator at Adoptive Family Support Network  
**Tiana Hawver.** Michigan-born adoptee, communications manager for Housing Kent.  
**Gregory Luce.** Adoptee, attorney, national expert on adoptee birth record and citizenship issues.

### Organizational Support (alphabetically)

\*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  
American Adoption Congress  
American Academy of Adoption & ART Attorneys  
**Arbor Circle**†  
Bastard Nation: The Adoptee Rights Organization  
**Bridge Street Ministries**†  
Capitol Coalition for Adoptee Rights  
Catholic Mothers for Truth & Transparency  
Concerned United Birthparents

Families Rising (formerly NACAC)

#### 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

Individual letters of support are also provided by Emily Helder (Professor of Psychology, Hope College); Liz DeBetta (PhD, Michigan, adoption studies scholar); Katie Bozek (Transitions Therapy, intercountry adoptee); Teresa Weatherall Neal (former superintendent, Grand Rapids Public Schools); and Holly Hernandez (adoption caseworker with Michigan's 17th Judicial Circuit Court).





## Michigan Adoptee Rights Coalition

November 6, 2023

### **RE: HB5148 (Grant) and HB5149 (Outman)**

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

The Michigan Adoptee Rights Coalition (MARC) is the lead Michigan advocacy organization 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 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 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. It's time to get this done..

Valerie Lemieux

**ADOPTEE ADVOCATES OF MICHIGAN**

Erica Curry Van Ee

**MICHIGAN ADOPTEE COLLABORATIVE**

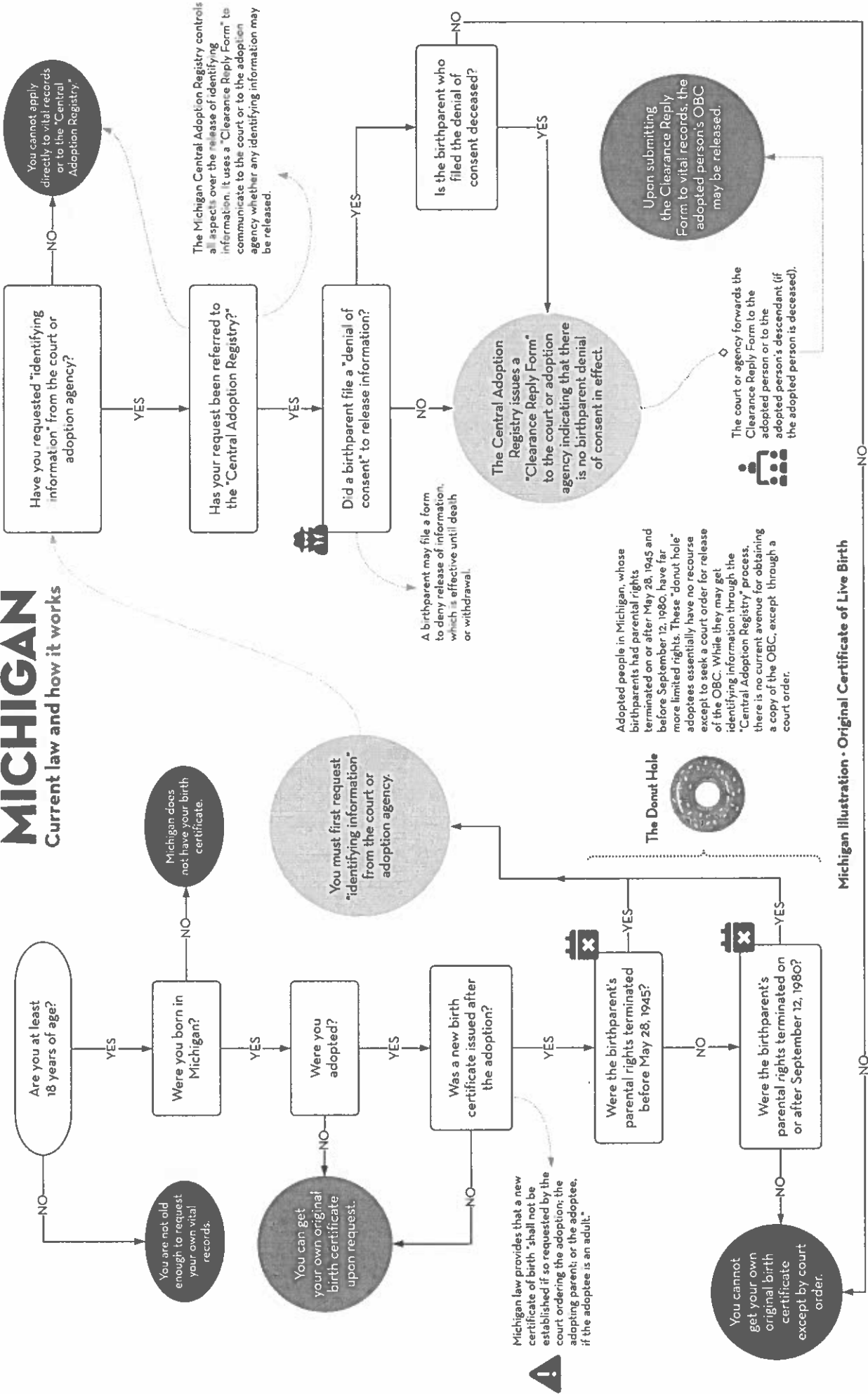
Gregory D. Luce

**ADOPTEE RIGHTS LAW CENTER**



# MICHIGAN

## Current law and how it works



Michigan illustration - Original Certificate of Live Birth

# When Adult Adopted People Have the Right to Michigan Request and Obtain their Own Birth Records HB5148/5149

Law in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, 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.

Start Here



Adopted Person

What the person does with the record is up to them



Application for Original Birth Certificate

Original Birth Certificate Issued



Included with the original birth certificate is a contact preference form, if filed by a birthparent. Information about the Central Adoption Registry is also provided to the requestor.



Optional Contact Preference Form filed with the Registrar.



Birthparent





October 25, 2023

The Honorable Stephanie Young  
Chair, House Committee on Family, Children and Seniors  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Anderson House Office Building  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

**RE: FAVORABLE REPORT ON HB5148/HB5149**

Dear Chairman Young and Members of the Committee:

We are leaders of diverse coalitions in 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 Young  
Chair, House Committee on Family, Children and Seniors  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Anderson House Office Building  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

**RE: Support HB5148 / HB5149**

October 27, 2023

Representative Young and Honorable Members of Committee,

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-Wohlpert  
American Adoption Congress  
National Legislative Chair

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





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

Janet Reynolds Snyder, MBA, Executive Director  
Michigan Federation for Children and Families  
517-485-8552 office  
734-476-3845 cell

**FULL MEMBERS**

ACTS II Ministry for Teens  
Adoption Option, Inc.  
Bethany Christian Services  
D.A. Blodgett-St. John's  
Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee & Hillsdale Counties  
Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties  
Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan  
Catholic Charities West Michigan  
Catholic Social Services of the Upper Peninsula  
Child & Family Charities  
Child & Family Services of Northeast Michigan  
Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan  
Child & Family Services of the Upper Peninsula  
The Children's Center  
Christ Child House  
CNS Healthcare  
Eagle Village  
Family & Children Services  
Family Outreach Center  
Family Service & Children's Aid  
Federation of Youth Services  
Forever Families  
Fostering Futures  
Fostering Solutions  
Great Lakes Recovery Centers  
The Guidance Center  
Guiding Harbor  
Hands Across the Water  
Highfields, Inc.  
Holy Cross Services  
Homes for Black Children  
Hope Network Behavioral Health Services  
House of Providence  
Insight Youth & Family Connections  
Judson Center  
Livingston County Catholic Charities  
MCHS Family of Services  
MiSide  
The New Foster Care  
New Light Child & Family Institute  
St. Vincent Catholic Charities  
Samaritas  
Services to Enhance Potential (STEP)  
Spaulding for Children  
Starfish Family Services  
Starr Commonwealth  
Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan  
U.P. KIDS  
Upper Peninsula Family Solutions  
Vista Maria  
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



October 25, 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**

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](mailto: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', written in a cursive style.

Adam Pertman, President  
National Center on Adoption and Permanency  
[www.ncap-us.org](http://www.ncap-us.org)



Bastard Nation: the Adoptee Rights Organization

P.O. Box 4607

New Windsor, New York 12553-7845

[bastards.org](http://bastards.org) 614-795-6819 @BastardsUnite

[bastardnation3@gmail.com](mailto:bastardnation3@gmail.com)

October 31, 2023

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

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*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.*

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2172 Dean Lake Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

616.451.2021

[www.dabsj.org](http://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](mailto:bvanprooyen@dabsj.org)





January 13, 2018

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; and

The Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys 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; and

The Academy supports an individual's right to know and access their full personal history, including the identity of their biological parents; and

The benefits of openness in adoption for all members of the adoption triad are recognized by adoption professionals and the adoption community; and

The societal norms which previously supported closed record laws have evolved and are no longer consistent with prioritizing the confidentiality of adoption records over the expressed need or desire of adopted persons to access their adoption records.

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys supports the inherent rights of adult adopted persons 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.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys supports the inherent right of adult adopted persons to access and obtain these records regardless of when their adoption occurred.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys will take action, consistent with its By-laws, to promote the revision of laws and policies governing the right of adopted persons to all information regarding their personal history as expressed above, both within the United States and throughout the world.



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](mailto: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



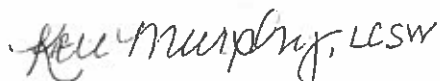
Jennifer Dyan Ghoston

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



1115 Ball Avenue NE | Grand Rapids, MI 49505 | 616.456.7775 P | 616.456.8568 F | [www.arborcircle.org](http://www.arborcircle.org)

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 cursive script 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](http://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



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

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

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

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

<p><b>Charlotte (O'Connor) MacAulay</b>  1983 - Charlottetown, PEI Canada  St Gerard's Home  Catholic Family Services Bureau</p>	<p><b>Cynthia (Rounds) McGuigan</b>  1983 - West Bridgewater, MA  Catholic Charities - Brockton, MA</p>
<p><b>Liana Jones</b>  1984 - Charlottetown, PEI Canada  St. Gerard's Home  Catholic Family Services Bureau</p>	<p><b>Monique Gentile</b>  1985 - Staten Island, NY</p>
<p><b>Eileen (Moran) Mertens</b>  1988 - Sycamore, IL</p>	<p><b>Candace Cahill</b>  1990 - St. Cloud, MN  Caritas Family Services - St. Cloud, MN</p>
<p><b>Catherine Devald</b>  1990 - Norwalk, CT  Catholic Family Services - Norwalk, CT</p>	<p><b>Melissa (Themar) Geck</b>  1993 - Milwaukee, WI  Catholic Social Services of Milwaukee</p>
<p><b>Allisa Brunner</b>  2000 - St. Paul, MN  Catholic Charities - Seton Services</p>	<p><b>Karen Tessier</b>  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 Copple, 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	
Anita Knight, OH 1970	J. Dudley-Robnett, WA 1980	Mary McCann, VA 1977
Ann Henry, MA	J. Tomczak, NY 1970	Mary McCann, VA 1977
Ann Medlock, VA 1954	Jackie Dresback, ID 1976	Mary McKeon, NJ 1980
Ann Panetta, NY 1978	Jackie Gregory, WA 1985	Mary Miller, NY 1968
Ann Seagraves, KY 1980	Jacqueline Guinan, PA 1968	Mary O'Loughlin, MA 1968
Anne Cote Morris, NY 1977	Jacqueline Horan, PA 1983	Mary Owens, MD 1975
Anne Dryman, FL 1965	Jaimee Stuchell, WV 1999	Mary Rigotti, NY 1979
Anne Hodges, NY 1963	James Crossen, CA 1955	Mary Romelle Murphy, WI 1969
Anne M. Schmitt, NY 1962	Jamie Katz-Ridion, CA 1990	Mary Ross, IL 1970
Anne Marie Nicholas, CO 1970	Jamison Carter, IL 1973	Mary Schmit, WI 1968
Anne Morris, NY 1977	Jan Baker, WA 1969	Mary Stout, CA 1981

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 Schwalbach, 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-Salcfas, OH 1974	Mimi Janes, CA 1979
Barbara Salisbury, IA 1972	Janis Osborne, CA 1969	Missi Evans-Miller, WV 1988
Barbara Seeger, GA 1963	Jay 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 1967
Betty J. Maryanski, TX 1966	Jeri Banks, OH 1969	Susan Oliver, VA 1967
Betty Lou Davis, SC 1953	Marcia 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 1960
Bonita Cerasaro, NY 1961	Jill Hicks, OR 1964	Susan Y. 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 Schmittinger, 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 Carcia, 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, FI 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  
Caroline Truslow, RI 1986  
Carolyn Hoard, FL 1964  
Carolyn Hurrelmeyer, OH 1970  
Carolyn Music, NJ 1985  
Carolyn Ressler, NY 1963  
Carolyn Richardson, CA 1960  
Carolyn Ward, FL 1968  
Carolyn Watts, KS 1985  
Carrie Castro, CO 1981  
Catherine Berman, CA 1968  
Catherine Bryan, NJ 1966  
Catherine Carella, NY 1966  
Catherine Denny, OR 1973  
Catherine Reed, ME 1969  
Cathleen Sandy, CT 1980  
Cathy Bailey, CA 1967  
Cathy Bell, LA 1944  
Cathy Miller, IN 1970  
Cathy Pedrola, CA 1969  
Cathy, MN 1978  
Celeste Mullen, WA 1996  
Celia Graham, CA 1969  
Ceren Richardson, CA 1987  
Ceren Richardson, IL 1990  
Ceren Richardson, SC 1992  
Ceren Richardson, TN 1974  
Charlene Savoy, NJ 1966  
Charlene Thornton, TX  
Charles Meyer, LA 1969  
Cherie Arnall, WA 1969  
Cherie Martin, TX 1978  
Cherie Martin, TX 1979  
Cheryl Ackerson, NY 1977  
Cheryl Bentz, PA 1970  
Cheryl Bentz, PA 1971  
Cheryl Brisson, CA 1969  
Cheryl Graves, IA 1979  
Cheryl Rickards, CA 1968  
Chris Gownley, NY 1965  
Chris Peters, GA 1971  
Christ Dill, MD 1975  
Christine Barry Laplume, MA 1969  
Christine Bello, VA 1985  
Christine Imhof Losey, NY 1964  
Christine LaValley, GA 1983  
Christine McCullough, NJ 1970  
Christine Olson, IL 1969  
Cindy Neathery, TX 1982  
Cindy Noll, WI 1966  
Cindy Short, IN 1980  
Cindy Walker, NY 1973  
Clara Miller, MA 1987  
Claudette Mason, AL 1966  
Claudia VanLydegra, CA 1965  
Colleen, IL 1970  
Connie Hoover, WV 1982  
Connie Whiffen, TX 1977  
Constance Jane Mathews Hubley, ME 1969  
Corinne Krokus, PA 1967  
Cory Salmeron, TX 1978

Karen Buterbaugh, VA 1966  
Karen Defoe, TX 1969  
Karen E. Chimenti, NY 1963  
Karen Keiling, NJ 1978  
Karen Kline, CA 1971  
Karen Lee Wiscott, GA 1979  
Karen Lynd, MI 1980  
Karen Mansur, MA 1963  
Karen Mansur, MA 1967  
Karen Mattman, NJ 1974  
Karen McCoy, AR 1973  
Karen Pope, NJ 1970  
Karen Robbins, TX 1974  
Karen Roedel, DE 1969  
Karen Roy Crockett, CA 1965  
Karen Skocdopole, AR 1966  
Karen Trainor, WI 1963  
Karen Vedder, TX 1967  
Karen Wilson-Buterbaugh, DC, 1966  
Karen Wilson, NJ 1975  
Karen Wiscott, GA 1979  
Karyn Keyes, CA 1974  
Kate Irvine-Mills, CA 1966  
Kate Mackin, IA 1965  
Kate O'Connor, CO 1964  
Katherine Chandler-Dover, NC 1973  
Katherine Connolly, CA 1960  
Kathi Stannard, NY 1984  
Kathleen Ann Collie, VA 1974  
Kathleen Chautin, LA 1978  
Kathleen Crouch, NY 1967s  
Kathleen Droogan-Kairit, MA 1971  
Kathleen Hills, MA 1973  
Kathleen Hoeg, CA 1970  
Kathleen Kenney, NJ 1968  
Kathleen Koch, MA 1969  
Kathleen Lamantia, OH 1970  
Kathleen Lee, CA 1964  
Kathleen Paulocsak, OH 1971  
Kathleen Sieger, NY 1973  
Kathleen Troutman, ND 1965  
Kathleen Vedder, NY 1969  
Kathryn Holloway, IN 1969  
Kathryn, OH 1997  
Kaththea Borland-Mills, NC 1968  
Kathy Aderhold, NE 1972  
Kathy Caudle, UT 1978  
Kathy Denman, NY 1968  
Kathy Griffin, CO 1974  
Kathy Henderson, AL 1972  
Kathy Koehler, CA 1963  
Kathy Koehler, CA 1964  
Kathy McCaskill, NY 1969  
Kathy Miele, PA 1973  
Kathy Pearce, CA 1974  
Kathy Pearce, CA 1977  
Kathy Perkins, IA 1971  
Kathy Petrin, NH 1971  
Kathy Podgurski, NJ 1966  
Kathy Roe, TX 1969  
Kathy Stevens, MI 1967  
Kathy White Moore, CA 1966

Pearl Osborne, TN 1966  
Pearl Philbrick, NY 1980  
Peggy McCall, MN 1972  
Peggy Sullivan, CA 1964  
Pollie Robinson, DC 1963  
Polly Speed, TX 1970  
Priscilla Cumberland, TX 1982  
Priscilla Stevens, NY 1965  
Priscilla Sullivn, MA 1972  
Prudence Bastian Karr, NY 1964  
R. Lynn Wallace, OH 1993  
Rachel Brown, NV 1999  
Rachel LaMaide, AZ 1983  
Rachel Wells, MD 1985  
Ramona Jeffries, FL 1965  
Randa Williams, NY 1962  
Randi Bell, CA 1962  
Randi Sue Sparks, AZ 1978  
Randy Lee Cameron, MI 1981  
Randy Pollitt, KY 1961  
Rebecca Johnson, NC 1958  
Rebecca Kellner, TX 1969  
Rebecca King, TN 1972  
Rebecca Lightfoot, PA 1992  
Rebecca Massey, CA 1964  
Rebecca Mullins, IL 1969  
Rebecca Ricardo, DC 1980  
Rebecca Siegel, IL 2000  
Rebecca Wilson, MI 1971  
Regina Garcia, CO 1990  
Regina Vignola, NY 1975  
Renee Phillips, TX 1970  
Renee Walstra, IN 1982  
Rhonda Burris, MA 1969  
Rhonda Mainland, GA 1979  
Rhonda Newsom, WA 1978  
Rhonda Nichols, AZ 1975  
Rhonda Nichols, AZ 1975  
Rhonda Renner, TN 1966  
Richard Henderson, GA 1955  
Richard Thredford, TX 1977  
Rick Frye, TX 1980  
Robert Davis, CA 1962  
Robert Filipczak, MI 1981  
Robert Quayson, PA 1967  
Roberta Cordes, OK 1974  
Roberta Miller, CA 1970  
Roberta Myers, CA 1951  
Roberta Radloff, MD 1969  
Roberta Welch, IL 1966  
Robin Doucette, AR 1981  
Robin Fannon, IL 1969  
Robin Heath, AL 1982  
Robin Jefferson, NE 1972  
Robin Kerr Kimbro, TX 1979  
Robin Weeks, TX 1979  
Robin Westbrook, SC 1962  
Robin Westbrook, SC 1963  
Robyn Powell, NJ 1960  
Robyn Powell, NJ 1963  
Rodney Carter, NV 1982  
Ronald Baecker, OH 1968

Crucita Nuanez-Ochoa, AZ 1975	Kathy Williams, IL 1965	Ronna Smith, OK 1978
Crystal Carpenter, PA 1968	Katrina Yorkey, CT 1982	Rosalie Nelson, PA 1966
Cunningham, MI 1954	Kay Garrett, TN 1975	Rosalie Slaughter, OH 1980
Curtis Little, MA 1979	Kay Hagan-Haller, SC 1975	Rosalind Maya Lama, NY
Cynthia (Lewis) Harrison, LA 1989	Kay Heimerson, OK 1964	Rose Ann Chick, IL 1965
Cynthia Bryant, VA 1970	Kay Houy, TX 1972	Rose, Ca 1968
Cynthia Bubadias, DC 1984	Kay Johnson, IA 1979	Rosean Dean, TX 1971
Cynthia Johns, IN 1977	Kay Otting, LA 1955	Rosie Dudley, PA 1967
Cynthia Kehl, PA 1973	Kay Penn, TX 1970	Roslyn Power LaPointe, NY 1963
Cynthia Kehl, PA 1973	Kay West, FL 1964	Roxann Hickle, OH 1986
Cynthia Metzbower, MD 1982	Kay West, FL 1964	Roxanne Reese, MN 1976
Cynthia Thomas, OH 1984	Kelly Haber, CA 1982	Roxanne St. Peter Reese, MN, 1976
Cynthia Whitlock, GA 1978	Kelly Theis, TX 1980	Roy J. Richards, DC 1963
Cyrilla Johnson, OK 1967	Kelly Wall, TX 1985	Ruby Monroe, WI 1969
D. J. Cox, KY 1968	Kendall Dietz, OH 1963	Ruby Murphey, OH 1965
D. L. Dossett, VA 1981	Kendall Dietz, OH 1963	Ruby Page, WA 1970
D. Wilson, OK 1967	Kenneth McDowell, CO 1972	Russell Witten, OK 1980
Dale Rutherford, MA 1969	Kenneth Watts, LA 1964	Ruth Barber, NY 1968
Dan Zachary, WA 1976	Keri Cook-Dollarhide, NV 1964	Ruth Bell, IA 1963
Dan Zobrist, IL 1972	Kerry Mansour, TX 1962	Ruth Buckholtz, PA 1995
Dana Copeland, CA 1981	Kevin Lee Harris, MI 1980	Ruth Mandigo, MA 1965
Dana Kim Baker, IN 1972	Kim Aszklar, CT 1985	Ruth Moree, WV 1951
Danette Benson, IA 1962	Kim Marth, CA 1957	S. A. Ernst, MI 1970
Danielle Gibson, IN 1979	Kim Murphy, CA 1975	S. MacClurg Vivian, NY 1961
Danna Lee Dishman, KS 1960	Kim Rodriguez, CA 1979	Sally Howard, MI 1959
Dara Odoms, GA 2002	Kim Trichel, KY 1982	Sallybeth Jackson, MI 1956
Darcey Jackson, IN 1981	Jeanne Radke, KY 1986	Sandi Rath, IN 1978
Darla Landreth, PA 1983	Kim Zimmer, OH 1971	Sandra Biggers, PA 1963
Darlene Carnevale, RI 1970	Kimberley A. Elliott, NH 1971	Sandra Bott, FL 1965
Darlene Crews, TX 1969	Kimberly Immicke, TX 1994	Sandra Deal, PA 1983
Darlene Gerow, WA 1967	Kitson Ferrari, FL 1964	Sandra Edwards, NY 1949
Darlene Hunt, RI 1	Krista Petway, VA 2001	Sandra Elliott, TX 1976
Darlene Renfro, CO 1976	Kristan Ross, UT 1999	Sandra Funderburgh, TX 1963
Darlene Rosiere, CA 1961	Kristen Heintzelman, MA 1977	Sandra Greene Camp, OK 1963
David Durben, NY 1966	Kristi Cappelto, FL	Sandra Henderson, MA 1964
David Sandy, VA 1980	Kristin Wernette, MI 1982	Sandra Hughes Biggers, PA 1962
Dawn Bartlett, NJ	Kristina Campagna, PA 1976	Sandra London-Wilcox, MI 1964
Dawn Beck, PA 1967	Joanne DeHaven, PA 1978	Sandra M.Lindstrom, MI 1972
Dawn Knox, IN 1989	Kristina Campagna, PA 1978	Sandra Martin, CA 1967
Dawn Schmid, MN 1968	Kristina Geis, MA 1968	Sandra Sendtko, NC 1971
Dawn Schroer, MD 1976	Kristina Sokolowski, MA 1968	Sandy Poynter, GA 1972
Dawn Schroer, MD 1983	Lanore Cutler Lewis, NY	Sandy Rau, KS 1975
Dawn Spurlin, MA 1967	Laura D. Berry, LA 1970	Sandy Sharkey, VA 1978
Dawn Thaler, MI 1973	Laura Dyke, IN	Sara Perkins, LA 1971
Dawn Vich, IL 1983	Laura Lewis, VA 1967	Sarita Schwedes, NJ 1976
Deana Lafferty, NY	Laura Pedersen, LA 1966	Shannon Basore, CA 1982
Deb Hanks, IA 1975	Laura Rothrock, PA 1968	Shannon Uriona, ID 1961
Debbie Arce, OH 1970	Laura Schorsch, NE 1973	Sharon Baumgardner, NY 1951
Debbie Climer, AR 1975	Laura Simon, NY 1975	Sharon C. Wemple, NY 1968
Debbie Climer, AR 1975	Laurie Bentley, VA 1972	Sharon Cheney, TX 1966
Debbie Coffin, NY 1973	Laurie Clark, WI 1975	Sharon Dutkevitch, PA 1990
Debbie Dennewitz, OH 1980	Laurie Heflin, NY 1968	Sharon Fieker, KS 1969
Debbie Godek, PA 1968	Laurie Lombardi, OH 1968	Sharon Grive, CA 1961
Debbie Grieg, NY 1969	Laurii Healey, PA 1981	Sharon Heaslip, MI 1979
Debbie Holloway, IL 1973	Leanne Oliver, AZ 1989	Sharon Keeling, IL 1966
Debbie Lummus, TX 1968	Lee Brown, NY 1962	Sharon L. Wray, NY 1968
Debi J. Fye, NH 1973	Lee Brown, NY 1964	Sharon LaPlant, IN 1962
Debora Shiver, NJ 1976	LeeAnn Dossett, LA 1967	Sharon Neesen, IN 1970
Deborah Coleman, MA 1974	LeeAnn Reth, OH 1978	Sharon Pilcher, OH 1969
Deborah Condetti, GA 1988	LeeAnn Turpin, OH 1968	Sharon Roberts, NJ 1998
Deborah Fortuna, CA 1977	Lena E. Winsor, NY 1932	Sharon Roberts, TX 1992
Deborah Hayes, OK 1973	Leona Brassell, CT 1965	Sharon Smith, CO 1995

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 Hiiipakka, 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



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



October 30<sup>th</sup>, 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

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

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,



Katie Bozek, Ph.D., LMFT



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*