



Opposition Statement SB331

Adoption - Access to Birth and Adoption Records and Search, Contact, and Reunion Services

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We Strongly Oppose SB 331

On behalf of our members in Montgomery County and across the state we respectfully yet strongly object to SB331. This bill will deprive birth mothers of their right to privacy in the adoption process and have the public policy effect of discouraging the life giving choice of adoption in favor of the destructive choice of abortion. This bill would deprive birth mothers their existing right to choose whether to disclose their identify through the standard "disclosure veto", and replace that with the weaker "Contact Preference Form" that provides no privacy protections.

Privacy means LIFE

The right to privacy and to protect her identity from being disclosed, even when the child reaches the age of maturity, empowers a birth mother to choose life for her child over death through abortion. Public policy has long favored closed adoption records because the law recognizes that the choice of a pregnant woman to give her baby up for adoption can be a complicated matter that can have life-changing impact on a birth mother. A birth mother may choose adoption because she is facing a difficult life or family situation that may not support her ability to keep and raise her child. This may include social stigma, family disownment, abuse from the biological father or partner, or financial and housing challenges. Public policy must continue to protect a birth mother's right to privacy to promote the state's interest in the potential life of the child. Closed adoption already allows for disclosure of family medical history without revealing the birth mother's identify. The opportunity for the LIFE of the adoptee must be considered before the opportunity for contact.

Abortion Epidemic

Abortion in America is an epidemic. Since the Supreme Court overturned the laws of 46 states when it legalized abortion in 1973, more than 61 million children have been killed through abortion. Abortion in America remains unsafe, with many women experiencing medical complications, including severe infection, loss of fertility and even death. Many women suffer long-term psychological harm identified as Post-Abortion Syndrome. Abortion is having a genocidal effect on Black Americans, who are disproportionately targeted by the abortion industry, with almost half of all pregnancies to Black women ending in abortion. While Black Americans were on track to become the leading minority population, they have now been replaced by Latino Americans (See <http://www.BlackGenocide.org> for more information.)

Love them both

83% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds should be prioritized to fund health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother and children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care, parenting classes, foster care reform and affordable adoption programs.