

By: Harris of Anderson

H.R. No. 564

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Allied organizations are gathering at the State
2 Capitol on March 21, 2023, to advocate for the right of adopted
3 adults to access their original birth certificates; and

4 WHEREAS, Under current Texas law, a child's original birth
5 certificate is sealed when he or she is adopted; at the age of 18,
6 adoptees may apply for their birth certificate, and if they know the
7 identity of the parents named on that document, the vital
8 statistics unit must release a noncertified copy; however, adoptees
9 who do not know the names of their birth parents are required to
10 petition for access in court in the county that granted the
11 adoption, showing "good cause," a term that the law does not define;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Concealment of true parentage is an unfortunate
14 vestige of another era; barriers to obtaining the original birth
15 certificate deprive adoptees of vital information about their
16 personal identity, and the lack of transparency denies family
17 medical histories that could indicate the nature of health issues
18 or warn of the need for preventative care; the right to such
19 information is broadly understood, and a 2021 poll by Baseline &
20 Associates showed that 77 percent of Texans believe that adult
21 adoptees should have the same access to their original birth
22 certificates that all other adult Texans have; and

23 WHEREAS, Dedicated to ending the inequitable treatment of
24 adult adoptees who do not know the identity of their birth parents,

1 allied groups are registering their support of House Bill 2006; the
2 bill grants all adult adoptees the right to access their original
3 birth certificates, and it incorporates provisions that represent
4 the interests of adult adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive
5 parents alike; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the years, the inability to access an original
7 birth certificate has been the source of much heartbreak and
8 confusion, and the organizations and individuals working
9 tirelessly for a solution have demonstrated a commendable
10 commitment to honesty, justice, and equality for adult adoptees;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize March 21, 2023, as Texas Adoptee
14 Rights Day at the State Capitol.