

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health
For Hearing Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 8:00 AM
Compiled on: March 24, 2025 5:05 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

COMMENTS FOR HB 1887 by Metcalf

Jackie blake
Self
Paradise, TX

Please give adoptees the right to know where they came from. Everyone should know this information, should be a human right!!

Richard Kevin Jordan
Self
Leander, TX

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote in favor of HB 1887. I am a 68 year old adoptee who needs my original birth certificate in order to join the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). These days anyone can find out who their ancestors are. There are no secrets. I know who my birth parents are. They do not want contact with me and I respect that. I do not want or need anything from them other than knowledge and facts. My birthmother used a false name on the original certificate. Even though I can provide their actual names to the State Records Agency they will not give me my certificate which they are supposed to do. Note that they did keep my \$10 fee however. I am so tired of being discriminated against. There are laws that protect the birth parents from unwanted contact. The current law keeping me from getting MY OWN records causes more hurt and trouble than it prevents. It is way past time for this to change. Please vote in favor. Thank you.

Jana Lockaby

Self

Kaufman, TX

I was adopted as an infant. At age 21, I was diagnosed with a hereditary eye disease called Retinitis Pigmentosa. Due to the diagnosis of this rare, eye disease, that has now caused the total loss of my sight, I was asked by doctors to inquire about my biological family medical history. I contacted the adoption agency and requested my non-identifying information. In 1987, I had gotten lucky with an agency counselor, an adoptee, and advocate for open records. With her help, I was able to find my birth mother, and thus get medical information, as well as other important questions answered.

At age 21, hearing an ophthalmologist, coldly, reveal that you have a hereditary eye disease that has no cure and causes blindness, is traumatic. As a young single woman hearing him say, "You should never have children," was devastating! Two years later, I found myself at the Retina Foundation of the Southwest, a research organization searching for a cure to Retinitis Pigmentosa. As they explained the amplified importance of family medical history in my case, my heart was once again broken. At the time, believing I would never know my biology, I told them I was adopted, and because of state law, had no way of getting that information. The non-identifying information that the state did allow me had no useful medical information.

The FDA has approved a treatment for a specific gene type of Retinitis Pigmentosa. The Retina Foundation of the Southwest made it possible for me to have genetic testing for research purposes. I now know my specific RP diagnosis as Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, and gene type. For me however, it is still more complex. Instead of having two mutated genes of the same type, I have two different mutated genes. Because of this oddity, the Retina Foundation requested my biological parents be tested. With all the results back, I can now be considered to participate in research treatment trials.

Knowing a cure is in sight, and, as an adoptee in a closed adoption, with no way of ever knowing my biology, I cannot imagine the heartbreak I would be experiencing right now if I had not gained access to my biological information! I am so thankful for the knowledge of my biology. Because of that, I am, at this very moment, being considered as a candidate to participate in a new research study for a treatment for my specific gene type, at the University of Pennsylvania. Because of that, I have hope of someday seeing again.

?I remember, in 2009, reading about other states passing bills allowing adoptees access to their original birth certificates. This motivated me to inquire about receiving my own birth certificate as a Texas-born adoptee. In 2009, because I knew the exact names of my biological parents, I was able to get a copy of my non-certified, original birth certificate from Texas vital records.??I vividly remember the day I received it in the mail. As I held it in my hand, I cried! This is why I ask you to vote in favor of HB 1887.

Renee Coffin

Self

American Canyon, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

I am an adoptee born and raised in Texas. Passing this bill would have such impact and importance to my life. As an adoptee i feel as though i will always have a missing piece of me not knowing what my original birth certificate says. A piece of me that doesnt know what medical history lies in store from my biological side. A piece in which my 3 children dont even know half of their medical history. A piece of which my children and i wont know our ancestral biological roots. Having the ability to see my original birth certificate with the names of the people that gave me life would be beyond the biggest gift. To know who you are, your roots, your medical history, to know would complete the missing pieces in my life and in my childrens lives. I encourage this committee to pass this bill.

Heather Ross
Self
Conroe, TX

It is important for adoptees to have access to their own information. The original record of the adoptee's birth is the property of the adoptee. The adoptee needs to know where (who) they came from for both the health history - physical and mental. A clean, unredacted birth certificate also provides a sense of reality and grounding for an adoptee. Vital records are vital. Please allow adoptees access to their original birth certificates.

Velicia Daniels
Self
Abilene, TX

I have family members and friends who are desperate to learn about their birth families. Doing so, will help them gain connection to their roots as well as be able to access their family's medical history.

Suzanne Napier
n/a
Austin, TX

I support adult adoptees rights to access their original birth certificates.

Sylvia Crixell, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

I am fully supportive of this bill.

Amy Chamberlain
Self
Austin, TX

I support the rights of adoptees to their birth records. Please pass this bill out of committee!

Kathryn Nichols
Self retired planner
Manchaca, TX

I support the passage of HB 1887 giving adults the right to access their adoption records.

Cassandra Johnson
Self
Holland, TX

My name is Cassandra Johnson and I love someone who is an adoptee, and I support Texas HB 1887 which will allow adoptees across the state to have access to their original birth records. Thank you.

Lucia Markert
Self/homemaker
Austin, TX

I support giving adult adoptees the right to have access to their original birth certificate.

Sloan McLain
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly support adoptees rights to access their birth certificates to know their genetic dispositions!

Melanie Greene
Self
Austin, TX

I support adult adoptees rights to access their original birth certificates.

Susan Nayak
Self, website and management consulting
Austin, TX

I support the right of adult adoptees to access to their original birth certificate.

Simran Gutierrez, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

As an adoptive parent, I firmly support the right of adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates.

Brian Peters
Self
Austin, TX

To the honorable members of the Texas House Public Health Committee,

There is a basic right that all Texans enjoy EXCEPT for one group, adopted Texans. Thousands of adopted Texans do not have access to their original birth certificate (OBC). Instead, they receive an altered version of their OBC (their first medical document). By receiving the amended birth certificate instead of the original, they lose important medical information, information that most of us take for granted, such as ethnicity and ongoing access to biological family medical history.

I know from personal experience how important this information is. My wife is an adopted person who was born in Ohio. From the information that was available to her, she found her biological parent over 20 years ago. Soon after finding them, her biological father died from melanoma. Because of this, her doctor ordered twice yearly visits to the dermatologist. Three years ago, a Stage 0 melanoma was found on her forearm and removed. Having access to her family medical history helped save her life. And possibly our children too. Now they are aware of their risk from melanoma, a risk that they did not know before.

Additionally, data shows that adopted teenagers are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their non-adopted peers. This troubling statistic can be addressed and possibly prevented by focusing on evidenced-based, best practices that strengthen families and support children. It is well known in the medical field that the best mental and medical healthcare for adopted individuals and their families involves giving the adopted adult the opportunity to seek out current medical information so that they are able to best care for themselves and their own children and grandchildren.

Now is the time for all Texans to have the same right through access to their OBC. Knowing one's medical history is literally a life and death matter. Please take this issue as seriously as it sounds.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters
(512) 905-1777

Marla Smith
Support Texas Adoptee Rights
Elgin, TX

My name is Marla Smith, a member of Support Texas Adoptee Rights and a Texas born adoptee.
I support House Bill 1887.

I was born on January the 24th, 1968, to Cynthia Ann Flolid Bohlenblust.

I was adopted by Dick and Kay Smith on December 3, 1968.

Many people support this bill raising many salient points, personal, medical and legal.

I would like to speak to a more general topic: The right to decide, as an adult, to learn about my own history, medical and familial. To decide how we live our adult lives is central to our civil rights, our democratic process and reflects the respect we, as citizens, deserve and expect within our society.

It is my right and the right of all adult adoptees to decide whether or not we access our own medical or family history. The current system requires that adult adoptees navigate an arbitrary and arduous process to request and access sometimes inconsistent, inaccurate and incomplete information. This is not true for non-adopted Texans.

This process reinforces the idea that our past should be hidden, that we should be ashamed or embarrassed of our history, that we are second class citizens, and, most damaging, denies our civil right to access our own information.

While my own personal story is important to me and my family I am speaking in support of the right to decide for all adult adoptees. Whether the choice is yes or no is not ultimately important. It is that we, as adults, are able to make our own decisions with confidence, dignity, and respect for ourselves and everyone involved. I support adult adoptee access to their Original Birth Certificate not because it gives adult adoptees additional rights. I support adult adoptee access to their Original Birth Certificate because it restores the rights that we, as adoptees, have been denied.

I was born on January the 24th, 1968, to Cynthia Ann Flolid Bohneblust.

I was adopted by Dick and Kay Smith on December 7, 1968.

Currently, in Texas, as a 56 year old woman, I do not have access to these basic facts. It is discriminatory and a denial of my civil rights as a citizen. Restoring adult adoptee access to their Original Birth Certificate would restore the rights of all adult adoptees giving them the ability to make their own decisions with respect and dignity to all people involved.

Thank you,
Marla Smith

Cynthia Bohnenblust
Self, retired weaver
Euless, TX

Cynthia Ann Bohnenblust

I support House Bill 1887 and the rights of Texas born adult adoptees to their original birth certificates.

My name is Cynthia Ann Bohnenblust. On January 24th, 1968, in Dallas Texas, I gave birth to a baby girl. Two weeks later I placed her into adoption. While it was a difficult decision for me my main concern was for the well being of my child. I wanted her to have a future that I was not able to provide at the time. I have always wanted what was best for her, then and now.

That is why I support House Bill 1887. At the time of the adoption I did not desire to limit my child's right to her personal or medical history. I had no expectation of privacy and did not realize that her original birth certificate would be sealed denying her the right to access her own vital record as an adult. I believe it is her fundamental right to have access to her vital records and her original birth certificate.

In 2017 my daughter Marla located me and my family through Ancestry.com. I had not had my DNA tested through Ancestry but my other relatives had done so and she was able to locate me through research based on my sister's DNA. She called me and we have been in contact since that time and I am proud to be able to testify in support of her rights today.

Speaking specifically to the idea of privacy I believe if she had been able to access her original birth certificate as an adult the process would have been more private giving us both the chance as adults to have conversation and decide the best path forward between the two of us. While I was able to navigate the situation with my extended family successfully it would have been more respectful to us to be able to choose when and how to share our story. Giving adult adoptees access to their original birth certificate gives all of the adults involved a chance to make a private choice about how they wish to move forward, or not. She was born, she was given a birth certificate at that time, and she should have the choice to access it in the same way as all unadopted Texans just as I would have been able to make a private choice on how to move forward after she contacted me.

Finally, I want to say I am fortunate that I have a relationship with Marla and only want the best for her, always. I ask that you support HB 1887 and respect the rights of adult adoptees, their birth parents and their adoptive parent to make their own decisions regarding their relationships and lives.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cynthia Ann Bohnenblust

Penelope Frohlich, Dr
Self
Austin, TX

I support adult adoptees having access to their original birth certificate.

Laura McLain
Self
Austin, TX

I support adoptee rights to access original birth certificates.

Lorraine DeHaas
Self
Austin, TX

I support the right of adult adoptees to be able to access their birth certificates and all related birth records

Kim-Marie Hernandez O'Driscoll, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

I support adult adoptees rights to access their original birth certificates.

Edith Mejia
Self
West lake Hills, TX

I support adult adoptees rights to access their original birth certificates.

Audrey Thompson
Executive Coach
Austin, TX

Allow adult adoptees to obtain their birth certificate

Beth Martinez
Self
Austin, TX

I support adult adoptees rights to their original birth certificates. How has this bill still not passed?

Lori Duke
Myself
Austin, TX

This needs to happen. I have represented hundreds of children adopted and they deserve access to their history. It is shameful that this isn't already law.

Michelle Lehman
Self
Austin, TX

I support adult adoptees having access to their original birth certificate.

Jennifer Corley
Self
Celeste, TX

Do pass this bill. For countless adoptees original birth records are a missing piece of their puzzle. Why should we be denied access to part of our history? Not knowing where I came from is a thought that I deal with daily. Seeing my children and not having a reference point in where they got that dimple or who they favor makes my heart hurt. Emotions range from hurt to angry to sad that I do not have access to my original birth certificate as an adult.

Katherine McAnally
Self attorney
Bertram, TX

Adoptees should have the right to their own information. We have a right to be able to attempt to locate our families, siblings, etc. For the purposes of medical history we should be able to attempt to locate someone who could help us locate family who may serve to provide us information or even an organ or other transplant.

Becky Banasik
Self tech exec
Austin, TX

Let adopted adults access this birth certificate!

Elizabete Gomes
Private individual
Austin, TX

Support adult adoptees rights to access their original birth certificates.

Darlene Denton
Self retired teacher
Gainesville, TX

As a 3 week old, I was placed with my adoptive parents in Septmber, 1941. The thought which gave rise to sealed records at the time was that we are a product of our environment, that heredity plays no part in personality development. Social Services professional confidently proclaimed that all a child needed was loving competent parents. Thus children who would otherwise be labelled as illegitimate and was sure to experience poverty could be spared such an experience by sealing their records of origin. It was precieved as a win-win solution for all parties. While this is true, it is a half trut. Man adoptees do long for information about their DNA origins. All the love in the world will not replace the need for information. The best of intentions such as "in the best interest of the child' does not negate these unintended complecations, As a reunited adult adoptee, I urge passage of HB1887

Elizabeth Jurenovich
Abrazo Adoption Associates
San Antonio, TX

As an adoption professional in Texas since 1987, I strongly urge passage of HB 1887, because every adult ever adopted in Texas deserves to have access to their own original birth record— just like every other person in this state. To do otherwise is to discriminate against those who were once adopted (without their consent), thus denying them vital access to their own birthright and the family medical history that goes with it. That Texas would continue to infantilize adopted adults by denying them to the one document that should belong to nobody else but them is cruel and unusual punishment, indeed. It's time to right this wrong.

Samantha Kral
Myself
Grand Prairie, TX

Adoptees should have the same access as non-adoptees, and right now they don't. When they obtain a copy of their birth certificate they should be able to see the original details of who birthed them. My daughter thankfully knows her birth family due to open adoption but when she asks for her birth certificate it shows my husband and I as the ones who birthed her. This is fraudulent in my opinion. The birth certificate either needs to expand to allow all accurate information or kids should have access to their original. My heart hurts for kids without open adoption seeking information on where they came from and their whole story. Thank you for reading my comments.

Sharon Cloninger
Support Texas Adoptee Rights (STAR)
Austin, TX

I am the biological grandmother of Danny, an adopted person born in Texas in 2000. I didn't know about or meet Danny and his adoptive parents until he was 9 years old.
In the meantime, his adoptive family had no knowledge of the medical history of my son—Danny's birth father—or the rest of our family.
Our family medical history includes congenital hearing loss and juvenile onset diabetes, which appear during childhood. Adults in the family have heart disease, high blood pressure, thyroid dysfunction, and bladder/kidney cancer.
Imagine, as a new patient, having to leave your family medical history blank. This puts both the patient and the doctor at a disadvantage. When Danny was a child, his doctor didn't know to test for hearing loss or diabetes. Preventative measures weren't taken. Fortunately, Danny developed neither condition.
How can adoptees who have no birth family contact discover their medical history? That knowledge begins with their first medical record, their original birth certificate (OBC), which typically identifies one or both birth parents.
But under Texas law, the OBC is sealed, and a supplemental birth certificate is issued naming the adoptive parents. Under Health & Safety Code Section 192.008, an adoptee cannot simply request the OBC from Vital Records. He must either obtain a court order from the county where the adoption was finalized or know the names of the birth parents as they appear on the OBC.
Not a of Texas's estimated 600,000 adoptees have the time or money to pursue a court order, which could as easily be denied as granted. Many, if not most, adoptees don't know the names of their birth parents unless they're in an open adoption.
This restricted access to OBCs denies many adopted persons the basic human right of adequate medical care based on their family history.
I urge the HHS Committee to vote in favor of any upcoming legislation that would give adoptees full access to their OBC. They deserve the same access to medical care as all other Texans.

Serenity Owens
Self
Austin, TX

I support adult adoptees right to access their original birth certificates.

Olivia Walls
Self
Panhandle, TX

Na

Angie Garcia
Self(BirthMom of an Adoptee)
San Antonio, TX

I am a BirthMom who placed her child for open Adoption through Abrazo Adoption Associates in San Antonio, TX. I believe it's only A Humans Right to seek gain their Records as they find Their True Identity. Sometimes, it may be for Health reasons and can be Life saving such as a Bone Marrow or needing an Organ ????

Jan Faulk-Eggleston, Dr
Self
San Antonio, TX

Every individual has a right to a birth certificate. Why are you lesser as an adoptee? I support this bill

Lauranda Garza
Abrazo Adoption Associates
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

Katherine Poole
Self - Family Law Paralegal
Pflugerville, TX

Adult adoptees have the right to access their original birth certificates, and should have that right enshrined in law.

Kelly Morris Morris
Self/ retired
San Antonio, TX

Please vote yes. I want to access my grandmother's adoption records and she was born in 1912. I can't see the problem.

Anita Thibodeaux
Self. Retired
Port Arthur, TX

I am not an adoptee. But I did put a daughter up for adoption in 1975.
I believe that everyone deserves to know who, where and family health history about themselves and birth parents. Please pass HB 1887 for access to all adoptees.
Thank you.

Kelly Morris Morris
Self/ Retired
San Antonio, TX

Please vote yes

Brittany Eggleston
Self
San Antonio, TX

Adoptee requesting original birth certificate.

Brittany Eggleston
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

Nancy Reiter
Self
Austin, TX

Adult adoptees should have access to their original birth records

Ronda Baldwin
Self/nurse
GAINESVILLE, TX

Please make birth records more accessible for adult adoptees. As an adoptee and health care professional, I can validate this is an important right for adoptees. Everyone should have access to their medical history.

Mina Credeur
self, costume designer
Magnolia, TX

Please vote Yes. Adoptees should have rights, too.

Jack Purcell
self, food service
Austin, TX

I believe adoptees in Texas should have access to all original, unedited copies of their birth certificates and records

Christina Howes
Self
Universal city, TX

Needs to be passed

Chris Donofrio
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1887.

Respectfully, Chris J Donofrio

Britney Grissom
Austin
Austin, TX

I am a birthmother who placed my son for adoption in the state of Texas. Now nearly 16, we have a close relationship through an open adoption. My son is lucky to have access to his birthfamily and, because we (his adoptive parents and I) secured multiple copies prior to the adoption finalization, will never face the dehumanizing experience most Texan adoptees face when trying to access their own personal legal documents. Outside of adoption, altering a person's legal identity without their consent and then withholding as an adult the legal record showing the unaltered truth of their origins would be seen as utterly ridiculous. Adoptees must be granted the rights others take for granted. Speaking to the most common argument against granting adoptees this basic right, after speaking to and hearing from hundreds of birthparents over the past 16 years, not a single one has expressed a desire to withhold this information from their child. To the contrary, many actively campaign for easier access for their children. On the point of any promises of confidentiality (which, if any such promises were made, they were exceedingly rare), in a world of 23&me, such a promise could not be kept regardless of birth certificate access. Unfortunately, when limited to that option to obtain their information, they may be connected first with family members unaware of their existence, which puts the adoptee in a potentially uncomfortable position announcing their existence and has the potential to be much more disruptive for birthparents. Ultimately, the only thing that should matter is an adopted person's right to their own information, but I include these rebuttals because others insist on placing the hypothetical wishes of unknown birthparents above the rights of the person most affected by (and with the least agency in) their own adoption. Please put adoptees first and advance this bill.

Des Jacob
Self
Dallas, TX

I support

Jeff Hewgley
Self engineer
Lago Vista, TX

I support this bill due to the lifelong trauma that adoptees live with, which stems from not knowing where they come from. I believe it is imperative for adoptees to be able to find their adoption information about their birth family in order to pursue their own healing and search for inner peace. The trauma and resulting turmoil that adopters often live with can be overwhelming and sometimes debilitating. This bill will give them the ability to unlock their past give them greater ability to resolve their inner struggles.

Stacie Cleland
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I'm a birth mother that is fervently in support of this bill!

Katie Harrell, Adoptee
self
Austin, TX

I urge you to pass this bill allowing adopted adults the right to know their birth parents and seek health info, relationships with bio family/siblings if desired, understand their ethnicity & heritage & ease the stress some carry throughout their life. Being adopted isn't easy even when you have a great adopted family and are a secret in life. I have an adopted family tree but am related by blood to none of the people in that tree. Most every other adults in the world know where they came from even individuals in foster care when they reach adulthood. To continue to seal this basic birth information is just not acceptable in the world today. Adoptees who had no say in the whole ordeal are the ones who suffer from denying this right. Most can discover bio relatives thru dna testing but as I myself have done but you have to contact a lot of people to achieve success in your research and it can be very difficult as well. I today at 68 years old have meaningful relationships with my 4 maternal siblings that I am grateful for. I met my bio mother once & don't know if my bio father is still living or not. I have wanted to know since I was 8 years old. Please consider supporting this bill.

Rebeckah Fitch
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am an adoptee from Homestead born in 1965 in Fort Worth Texas. Finding my birth date is near impossible because of the way records were kept there. Possibly I can learn more by doing DNA testing but that is expensive and fraught with challenges. I assume as a citizen of the United States I should have access to my original birth certificate. Seems a basic right. I urge you to keep an open mind and heart and allow us adoptees our OBC. Thank you

Lisa Pardo
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please make this Session the one that passes this Bill. Unfortunately Campbell is the elephant in the room. I hope you have success. I am an adopted adult Texan. This bill matter.

Deana Perkins
self
Sachse, TX

I am a parent of an adopted child. She is now almost 45 years old. ALL adults should have access to their original birth certificate. An original birth certificate is available to EVERY legal Texan EXCEPT adult adoptees. Any fee incurred should be the same for all legal Texas adults.

Molly Anguish
Self, homemaker
Lubbock, TX

Please vote FOR/DO PASS HB 1887. It is a basic human right to have access to our own personal documents. Every other person in this country can access their personal documents, with the exception of ADULT adoptees. We are adults that have had our basic human identity ripped away from us, our legal birth certificates changed and falsified, and we deserve access to our original, untainted documents. My adoptive mother did not give birth to me, but that's what my birth certificate says. It's egregious that this is even an issue for discussion. We deserve access to our original birth certificates as American and Texas citizens. Other states allow this with no issue or prejudice. There is no reason that Texas should be holding our personal legal documents hostage.

Bryan Perryman
Self - self employed
Austin, TX

"Adoption Loss is the only trauma in the world where the victims are expected by the whole of society to be grateful." - Reverend Keith C. Griffith.

Honorable members, my name is Bryan Perryman. I'm a survivor of two adoptions.

Born in 1984, I was a closed adoption. 'Baby Boy Chaney' became 'Bryan Bonner'—a name not my choice. At 13, I was adopted by my step dad Ray Perryman, and he let me borrow part of his name. It's different, when you accept a new identity on your own versus having it done without your consent.

The totality of these experiences gives me unique insight into this issue that many people really don't have, (thankfully).

Very briefly, parental separation causes an exceptional level of trauma, especially when you experience that trauma at birth. Because, of this, you do not develop a framework through which you can form an identity that seems genuine. In this type of Primal Wound, there may not be healing, exactly.

However, there are certain steps an adoptee can take in the Journey Back to Themselves. One of the most essential steps, is having access to our original birth certificates and any information regarding our birth. It is one of the first steps in our journey of healing from this loss.

I worked for child protective services for many years, investigation claims of abuse and neglect to children. When it became necessary to remove a child from their home, caseworkers spend quite a bit of time putting together a file about that child's life, their medical history, info about their family members, school records, it's the information that provides them the context to where they find themselves and where they are going.

Please, choose to do the same for the adoptees that didn't get this courtesy, like me. I wasted thousands of dollars on private investigators and DNA tests for information that my adoption broker could've emailed me or sent me in the mail. My parent's names.

Because for many of us, the severing of our roots will never be healed. However, the information we need is just an email or letter from the state or adoption agency away. This information is just sitting there while adoptees and foster care survivors stop surviving. While we are more likely to die of addiction, self-harm and more likely to be incarcerated, these issues are all directly related to the loss of our familial identity, some of which can be restored simply by voting for this bill and saving the lives of my fellow adoptees and foster care survivors.

Truly I can tell you, healing from this trauma of parents separation starts with having access to this essential human right. There is simply no reason to continue inflicting this trauma on kids who don't have to experience it and adults who can start trying to figure out who, exactly, they are.

Alison Macor, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

As someone who has assisted a close friend in finding their birth parents, I know firsthand how important access to birth information is for adults who have been adopted. It can be life-changing. For these reasons, I support HB 1887 to allow adult adopted Texans to access their original birth certificates and strongly encourage passage of this bill. Thank you!

Michael Gallier
self
Houston, TX

As an adoptee who has gone through the process of requesting court approval to obtain of copy of my original birth certificate I am in favor of HB 1887. At age 33 (1995) I petitioned the 133rd District Court in Houston and was denied. I was required to work through and with the original adoption agency (Catholic Charities) in hopes that they would eventually determine that I and my birth parents were ready for me to have that information. If they did find that the parties were "ready" then Catholic Charities would recommend to the judge to approve my request. The only reason I was eventually successful is that it was determined that my birth mother was deceased and there was no information on any documents relating to my birth father. I'm concerned that today other adoptees are having similar difficulties with getting their own very personal and important information. This seems like information a person should be entitled to once they have reached age 18. My information is dated but based on the wording of H.B. 1887 it sounds like this still may be an issue.

Michael Gallier
Houston, Texas

Laura Gallier
Self-Retired CPA
Houston, TX

I support HB 1887 because my loved one, who was adopted, supports it. That person had a very hard time accessing their birth certificate and they feel compassion for others going through the process.

ADRIENNE LUSK
SELF
AUSTIN, TX

Hello,

My name is Adrienne. I am an adoptee who grew up south of Houston, now residing in the Central Texas area.

For 45 years, I have had no access to my original birth certificate, my original name, or any details of my existence prior to adoption day.

Unfortunately, even after adoption day the details of my existence prior to adoption were falsified, prohibited, and ignored.

Like most adoptees, discussion of our lives before adoption was not a welcome subject. Although there would be some form of reprimand for trying to learn more about my life, I know that other adoptees in my communities suffered worse for trying to learn about their own lives.

Can you imagine? Having a completely different identity, totally different name, a different family, a different life, all while being told you have no right to it?

It's like something that you would watch on a Lifetime movie or Law and Order. It couldn't possibly be real life. What would be the point of forcing children away from their homes and lying to them their entire lives about who they are?

Was it protection? To protect something, you give it the strength and the resources to be prepared. Not destroy everything around it. Protection isn't the point.

Are we lucky to be able to even have the chance at a decent home? Luck is something that happens because you are in the right place at the right time. Adoption is an extensive process that takes months of work and money. It's not luck.

So why still, after all of these decades, are adoptees continuing to be told that keeping original birth records sealed with the state is for our protection or because we should consider ourselves lucky to have what we have now?

I can't answer that. I wish I could be there in person to ask the you the legislators and hear your answers. What is the point in keeping our records sealed with the state if it's not protection, if it's not for us/the adoptees?

I ask that the House hear what Representative Metcalf has proposed, prioritize adoptees who are historically underrepresented in this state, and ask yourselves, "why are we continuing to practice a policy that brings so much harm to so many Texans if it's not to protect them?".

Thank you for your time in hearing my statement. Thank you to Representative Metcalf for leading yet another campaign for birth record access for adoptees. Adoptees from across the state appreciate the effort and are hopeful that this is the legislator that will finally pass a birth records bill that prioritizes the individuals most impacted, the Adoptees of Texas.

Jan Seides-Murphy
Jan Seides Music Studio
Austin, TX

I am speaking as a birth mother who has been reunited with my relinquished child for more than 25 years now. She did not have access to her original birth certificate, and yet, before DNA registries, before the world wide web, back in the days of newsgroups when the internet was new, she found me. She found me 1500 miles from her birthplace, with a different name than I had then. I was able to provide her with answers to her many questions, especially the family health history ones. The questions that the hospital asked when her first son was born, which she didn't know the answers for, and which started her search for me.

Given that her search would be so much easier now than it was when she found me, and also that other states have also opened the door to providing OBCs to adult adoptees who request it, it is difficult for me to understand why Texas would be in favor of withholding that vital information from someone who simply desires to know who they are.

I hope this comment will provide energy for changing that stance.

Sincerely,
Jan Seides-Murphy

Thomas Purcell
self, software engineer
Austin, TX

I am in favor of HB 1887. Please support this bill and keep the government out of our family business.

Sharon Becker
Self, barista
Austin, TX

My name is Sharon Becker. I love someone who is an adoptee, and I support Texas HB 1887 which will allow adoptees across the state to have access to their original birth records. Thank you.

Peter Hansen
self/attorney
Austin, TX

My name is Peter Hansen. My wife is an adoptee, and I support Texas HB 1887 which will allow adoptees across the state to have access to their original birth records. Thank you.

Paul Peters
Self
Austin, TX

I support adoptee's rights to access their original birth certificates

Joellen Peters
Joellen Peters, PhD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Austin, TX

I am an adopted person and advocate for those who want access to their birth certificates. Please vote yes on 1887!

Cindy Patrizi

None

Austin, TX

I strongly support adult adoptees rights to access their original birth certificates.

Carol Martin

Self

austin, TX

Adult adoptees. - I strongly support the rights of adult adoptees to access their birth certificate. Which is access to medical information that can save lives.
