



RESTORE OHIO ADOPTEE RIGHTS IN 2013!



**Adoption
Equity
Ohio**

www.AdoptionEquityOhio.org



www.AdoptionNetwork.org

Legislation Endorsement Form

For more information, go to: www.AdoptionEquityOhio.org

Restore Ohio Adoptee Rights by supporting the passage of Ohio Senate Bill 23 (Sponsored by B. Beagle and D. Burke) Ohio House Bill 61 (Sponsored by D. Pelanda and N. Antonio)

Ohio has an inequitable, three-tiered system for adult adoptees to access their original birth certificates. Adult adoptees have direct access to their own original birth certificate if their adoption was finalized prior to January 1, 1964. However, those adopted during the 32-year period between January 1, 1964 and September 18th, 1996 (the implementation of H.B. 419) do not have direct access to this vital information.

S.B. 23 and H.B. 61 will change Ohio law in two important ways:

- 1) Adoptees born up to the implementation of H.B. 419 (Sept. 18, 1996) will be able to request a copy of the contents of their adoption file from Vital Statistics, which includes the original birth certificate, once they reach the age of 18. This is the same process that pre-1964 adoptees currently enjoy.
- 2) A Contact Preference system will be created to give birthparents a voice that they currently do not have. It would allow Ohio birthparents to file a Contact Preference Form specifying if and how they would like contact, and it would allow Ohio birthparents to complete and put on file an updated medical history for the adoptee. If submitted, the form is released with the contents of the Vital Statistics file, if requested by the adoptee.

The undersigned organization supports H.B. 61 and S.B. 23 and urges the Ohio General Assembly to swiftly pass this legislation, as introduced:

Organization: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Thank you for your support! Please return this completed form to:
Adoption Network Cleveland f: (216) 881-7510 p: (216) 325-1000 email: betsie.norris@adoptionnetwork.org