



Texas State Representative Cody Harris  
Texas State Capitol, Room E1.318  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

February 3, 2021

Representative Harris,

This statement is furnished to express support by the [American Adoption Congress](#) (AAC) for the clean Bill of Adoptee Rights in Texas (HB1386) which will:

- **Restore unrestricted access** to original birth certificates (OBC) for all adult adoptees, just like all citizens and adults who “age-out” of foster care
- **Establish access** for a deceased adopted person’s adult descendants and other qualified relatives

At the age of 18, all Texans have the legal right to obtain their original birth certificate, except for adopted adults. The American Adoption Congress feels that now, after years of consideration, committee hearings, and overwhelming support in both House and Senate chambers, Texas is poised to join the nine other states with unrestricted access policy. **This belief is consistent with our [formal legislative policy](#) for clean adoption reform.**

At the AAC, we estimate that a Texas Law of Adoptee Rights will restore access to 968,462 sealed original birth certificates. **On this metric, it would become the largest estimated advancement of adoptee equality in U.S. history.** Further, we expect this act will lead other large and diverse 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 in Texas 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.

We hope this statement may assist. We thank you for the introduction of HB1386 and all ongoing efforts to restore adult adoptee human and civil rights.

Respectfully,

*Tim*

Tim Monti-Wohlpart  
American Adoption Congress  
National Legislative Chair