



February 5, 2021

Texas State Representative Cody Harris  
Texas State Capitol, Room E1.318  
PO Box 2910  
Austin TX 79768

Dear Representative Harris:

I'm writing to express the support of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) for House Bill 1386, the Bill of Adoptee Rights in Texas.

CWLA supports legislation that provides unrestricted access to original birth certificates for all adult adoptees and allows access for the descendants and other relatives in cases where the adopted person has died. We feel this is an important step that can strengthen the adoption process.

Over our 100 years we have seen the nation make significant advancement in efforts to provide permanency for all children. Adoption has been a critical part of these advancements. Throughout our existence adoption standards have changed and been strengthened as we have learned about brain development, child development, adolescent development, and the impact of trauma both on children and adults.

CWLA agrees with others that access to birth certificates is another important development in this progress. As we understand it, this legislation on Adoptee Rights in Texas will restore access to 968,462 sealed original birth certificates. This is an important advancement that can help lead other states to enact these reforms.

Thank you for your work on this legislation. We encourage all legislators to support passage of HB 1386 so adoptees can have this fundamental human right—access to important information about themselves.

Sincerely,

John Sciamanna  
Vice President of Public Policy  
Child Welfare League of America