

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Richard Stark
Florida House of Representatives
212 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Stark:

I have reviewed HB597, the bill that you filed on January 30, 2019. I ask that you withdraw the bill immediately. I also request that you consider the draft bill I forwarded to you in October 2018, as well as a separate provision related to intercountry adoptees and the availability of their records. The draft I forwarded to you is a clean adoptee rights bill that addresses the current problematic issues in Florida law.

HB597, however, is a bill that severely limits adoptee rights in Florida and in part makes the issuance of an original birth certificate dependent on reunion with a birth parent. Reunion is never a civil rights issue in the context of an adoptee's right to secure equality. Rather, the issue is always one about providing an adult adopted person's own original vital record, without discriminatory provisions or restrictions.

Please let me know if you will withdraw HB597 and substitute it with a clean bill that upholds a human right to a person's own identity and full birth record.

Best regards,

ADOPTEE RIGHTS LAW CENTER PLLC



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