

# Why Adoption Reform Illinois opposes HB5428

**A**ny proposed change that does not recognize adult adoptees as having the same rights and responsibilities of every other Illinois resident is unacceptable. HB5428 falls short of this benchmark. This issue is not medical records, search and reunion or privacy rights—it's about *identity*!

Adoptees age 21 and over simply want access to the unredacted documents that are pertinent to their origins and identity. This is a right that anyone else born in Illinois can take for granted.

All adoption reform groups in the USA and even the Child Welfare League of America, the oldest and largest professional association of social workers in the U.S. supports the right of adult adoptees to their own identity. Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute studied this issue and concluded that adult adoptee rights must be restored.

The nationwide trend to reverse the changes that forbid adult adoptees access to their own identity has met with resistance, not because it tramples someone else's rights, but because it threatens profits. Restoring adoptee rights would make adoption, like many other kinds of contracts between human beings (*e.g.* marriage), reliant on good faith and faith in one's ability to create and maintain a relationship with another human. ARI believe this would be a positive change.

- **Voluntary consent to the exchange of medical information does not require government participation.**
- **Calling an adult adoptee an “adult child” reinforces the concept of adopted individuals as perpetual children and creates a separate class of individuals whose rights are restricted based on their birth status.**
- **A parental veto allows a person who relinquished all rights to deny another person his rights.**
- **This advisory group proposed in HB5428 is stacked with entities that benefit financially from adoption.**
- **The bill legally mandates fraud with regard to public records.**
- **This statute enshrines mutual consent registries in law even though they have been shown not to work.**
- **This statute is about search and reunion, not adoptee rights. State-supplied search services are unnecessary when adoptee rights to original birth certificates (OBC) are restored.**
- **Federal privacy laws in no way impact the release of birth certificates.**
- **This creates a legal liability of \$10,000 for triad members who pursue their own genealogy. Money collected if CIs break the rule do not go to the injured party, they go to DCFS. CIs are not removed from their petition.**
- **The bill holds the state and CIs harmless for mistakes made while messing about in an individual's business.**
- **Throwing good money after bad makes no sense. Fiscally and morally, the right thing to do is to restore adoptee rights.**