



Virginia Delegate Wendell S. Walker  
Chair of the Health, Welfare and Institutions Sub-Committee  
Pocahontas Building, Room E304  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

January 17, 2023

Chairman Walker and Honorable Sub-Committee Delegates, staff and counsel,

This statement is furnished to express support by the [American Adoption Congress](#) for Virginia [HB1969](#). We thank you, Chairman Walker, for introducing this bill. When enacted, this vital human and civil rights proposal will:

- **Restore unrestricted access** to original birth certificates (OBC) for all adult adoptees
  - **NOTE:** *We suggest correction to issuance by the Department of Health, the keeper of such vital records (as opposed to the "Commissioner" - Department of Social Services).*

Adults of Virginia have the legal right to obtain their original birth certificate, unless they are adopted. The American Adoption Congress feels that now Virginia is poised to join the thirteen other states with unrestricted access policy. **This belief is consistent with our [formal legislative policy](#) for clean adoption reform.**

Further, we expect that the proper reform in Virginia will help lead other 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 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.

The American Adoption Congress is a member of the Capitol Coalition for Adoptee Rights ([CCAR](#)).

We hope this statement may assist and we thank you for your consideration to restore adoptee equality.

Respectfully,

*Tim*

Tim Monti-Wohlpart  
American Adoption Congress  
National Legislative Chair

.cc Capitol Coalition for Adoptee Rights ([CCAR](#))