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THE SENATE
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AGRICULTURE
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTION
EDUCATION
FINANCE
HEALTH

August 26, 2019

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, New York 12248

Re: Clean Bill of Adoptee Rights (S3419 – Montgomery /A5494 – Weprin)

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We are writing to respectfully request your immediate consideration of our historic Clean Bill of Adoptee Rights legislation (S3419 – Montgomery /A5494 – Weprin) to restore unrestricted access to original birth certificates for all adult adoptees.

Our bill would ensure that all adults adopted in New York State will have the same unimpeded right to access their birth certificates as everyone else who is born in our state. Given the bill's pending effective date of January 20th, 2020 and the mandate for the State Department of Health to promulgate rules and regulations in order to carry out the provisions of the bill, we would appreciate an expedited review of our legislation.

This bill has widespread support from the Legislature. In the Senate, the bill has 19 co-sponsors and in the Assembly, the bill has over 70 co-sponsors. In addition to this, the bills passed both houses overwhelmingly.

Additionally, thousands of constituents and adoptees have contacted our offices in support of this legislation across the state. This bill also has a groundswell of support from advocacy groups and attorneys across the state and the nation:

- Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA)
- Adoptee Rights Law Center
- Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York
- American Adoption Congress
- AMT Children of Hope Foundation
- Bastard Nation: The Adoptee Rights Organization
- Concerned United Birthparents, Inc. (CUB)
- Equality for Adoptees
- Family Preservation 365
- Adoptions of Indiana

- Law Office of Faith Getz Rousso
- Lorraine Dusky/First Mother Forum
- National Center on Adoption and Permanency
- New York Adoptee Coalition
- New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
- North American Council on Adoptable Children

With the signing of this bill, New York will join Alabama, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon and Rhode Island who have restored access to their un-redacted birth certificates.

Enclosed please find a sampling of the support letters our offices have received on this bill. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our respective Legislative Directors below:

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For decades, adoptees have been fighting to restore access to their birth certificates. This important legislation will allow generations of adoptees to finally receive an important piece of their personal and family legacy. On behalf of adoptees in New York State and nationwide, we urge your support and would welcome a formal bill signing ceremony to allow all of the aforementioned groups to celebrate as Governor Cuomo takes this historic action in the State of New York for the Clean Bill of Adoptee Rights (S3419/A5494) bill.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely Yours,

Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District

Assemblyman David I. Weprin
24th Assembly District

cc: Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Senate
         Speaker Carl Heastie, New York State Assembly
         Axel Bernabe, Acting Counsel to the Governor
         Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to the Governor
         Shontell Smith, Counsel and Chief of Staff to Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins
         Eric Katz, Deputy Counsel to Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins