



COALITION CALL TO ACTION

Adoptee Rights Bill Bait and Switch

**Bad bill may come to the Assembly floor for a vote today!
Your call needed immediately!**

Adult adoptees in New York State are denied the basic human right of access to their original birth certificate. This has got to change -- but in the right way.

[New York Adoption Equality](#) and other allies have been working diligently in Albany during this legislative session to pass a "Bill of Adoptee Rights" that would guarantee this right (as many states already do).

At the last minute, Assembly Bill A2901 was amended. Now, what was a simple and straightforward granting of longer overdue access to one's biology and genealogy has been taken hostage. A new "mirror" bill, A2901a, was introduced in the closing days of this year's legislative session. This amended bill, from which the title of "Bill of Adoptee Rights" was removed (could there be a better illustration of the problem?), would create a system administered by the court system, would mandate confidential intermediary searches by the state, as well as require judges to consider the wishes of others when **considering** whether to grant access to requests for copies of original birth certificates by **adult** adoptees on a case-by-case basis if passed.

Many of us who are adoptive parents or who know adopted persons know the harm that secrecy and lack of knowledge can cause. The measured and reasonable step of granting unfettered access to original birth certificates to adults should not be mucked up or bogged down by unnecessary court proceedings.

Our family courts are already overwhelmed!

**This amended bill may come to the floor for a vote today.
Please take a moment right now to make a phone call or two.
Call your local Assembly member and legislative leaders.
Tell them to vote no on A2901a.
Especially important to reach are:**

In the Assembly:

David Weprin: (518) 455-5806 | Bill Sponsor

Carl Heastie: (518) 455-3791 | Speaker of the House

In the Senate (because companion bill S5964 may also come to a Senate vote):

Andrew Lanza (518) 455-3215 | Bill Sponsor

John Flanagan (518) 455-2071 | Majority Leader

To find your legislator:

[Assembly](#) | [Senate](#)

Call today!

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