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March 7, 2018

Speaker of the House, Robert DeLeo (Robert.DeLeo@mahouse.gov)
Senate President, Harriette Chandler (Harriette.Chandler@masenate.gov)
Re: Support of H.1163/S.1195 (OBC Access Bills)

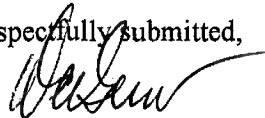
Dear Speaker DeLeo and President Chandler:

The Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys is a national organization dedicated to the competent and ethical practice of adoption and assisted reproduction law, and advocates for the improvement of adoption laws and practices. We are a credentialed body of over 470 attorneys representing clients in all aspects of family formation. Now entering its 30th year, the Academy reflects the current best practices in the world of family formation law.

This year, after long debate and deliberation, the Academy's Board of Trustees announced its Resolution Regarding Adopted Persons' Access to Adoption Records. I have attached a copy of the Resolution for entry into your record and your review.

As the Academy's President, I am proud to submit this letter to introduce the Academy's Resolution to the Massachusetts Legislature and to support H. 1163 and S. 1195 that would permit adult adoptees access to certain of their birth records. These Bills are consistent with the Academy's Resolution and we urge your thoughtful consideration in moving these Bills.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra E. Guston, J.D.
President

C: Rep. Kate Hogan (Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov)
Rep. Sean Garballey (Sean.Garballey@mahouse.gov)
Sen. James Eldridge (James.Eldridge@masenate.gov)
Access Massachusetts (OBCforMA@gmail.com)

Resolution Regarding Adopted Persons' Access To Adoption Records

The Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys is a national organization dedicated to the competent and ethical practice of adoption and assisted reproduction law, and advocates for the improvement of adoption laws and practices; and

The Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys plays a leading role in the development of laws, policies, and practices designed to benefit the lives of all members of the adoption triad and in the advancement of a better understanding of the meaning and importance of adoption for society in general; and

The Academy supports an individual's right to know and access their full personal history, including the identity of their biological parents; and

The benefits of openness in adoption for all members of the adoption triad are recognized by adoption professionals and the adoption community; and

The societal norms which previously supported closed record laws have evolved and are no longer consistent with prioritizing the confidentiality of adoption records over the expressed need or desire of adopted persons to access their adoption records.

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys supports the inherent rights of adult adopted persons to their personal biological family information and to have access to their:

1. original birth certificates;
2. agency records which relate to them and their biological family; and
3. court records of their adoption.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys supports the inherent right of adult adopted persons to access and obtain these records regardless of when their adoption occurred.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys will take action, consistent with its By-laws, to promote the revision of laws and policies governing the right of adopted persons to all information regarding their personal history as expressed above, both within the United States and throughout the world.