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April 21, 2010

Chairperson MaryValentine and Members
Committee on Families and Children's Services
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: House Bills 4006 & 4015

Dear Representative Valentine and Committee Members:

I have had a chance to review the changes to HB 4006 and 4015, and wish to make it known to the Committee that, as an adult adoptee (and *not* an "adopted child") I must now strongly OPPOSE these bills.

The bills as originally proposed already compromised what I believe is an adoptee's civil right to know where he or she came from. *No other group in society faces such a barrier.* By amending the bills, you have perpetuated the infantilization of adoptees, effectively branding us as unfit to manage our own affairs and too dangerous to be allowed to even know the names of those who brought us into the world. I cannot in good conscience support such a cynical and condescending viewpoint.

No bill at all is better than these offensive pieces of proposed legislation. I urge the Committee to kill these bills. If they pass out of Committee, I will work to defeat them on the House floor, and in the Senate if need be. And come the next election, please remember this: adoptees vote too.

Very truly yours,



DARYL ROYAL