

For Immediate Distribution – November 22, 2013 (TRIA) Truth and Reconciliation In Adoption

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SUPPORT THE FREEDOM OF THE MILLIONS OF ADOPTED AMERICANS TO KNOW THEIR ANCESTRAL HERITAGE

Whereas constitutional amendments were created to guarantee personal freedoms and to minimize government interference in the lives of its citizens; adopted people, who had no say in their adoption, should have every right to their original birth certificates and thus access to their medical, genetic, and familial history; information that is not only important to them but equally important to future generations as well. Sealed adoption records should be opened immediately in every state to enable adopted people contact with their family of origin, should they choose to do so, as our government should not be in the business of legislating relationships.

As November is National Adoption Awareness Month, TRIA desires to bring awareness to the fact that there are only seven states in this country that currently allow adult adoptees unrestricted access to their original birth certificates; Alabama, Alaska, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Rhode Island. Not only have adoptees been kept from vital knowledge about themselves but they are now finding it more difficult to obtain passports and other legal documents post 9/11 without their original birth certificates, despite being born here.

We trust that you will understand the desire to know one's ancestral heritage as a basic human right and need, and will support our desire to bring greater awareness and much needed change to this issue.

Thanking you in advance for your support!

The Truth and Reconciliation In Adoption reform community