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859 Riverside Drive, #11  
Greenwood, IN 46142  
(317) 407-8422  
[adoptionART.org](http://adoptionART.org)

February 20, 2019

The Honorable Velmanette Montgomery  
New York State Senate  
188 State Street  
915 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248

On behalf of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (“AAAA”), I am writing to express support for S3419, the adoptee rights bill you recently introduced in the New York Senate. I understand that Assembly Member David Weprin is the lead sponsor of an identical bill in the New York Assembly.

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. It 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.

In January 2018, AAAAA approved a resolution that provides in part:

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.

Consistent with AAAAA’s resolution, which also commits to taking action to promote the revision of laws and policies governing the right of adopted persons to information regarding their personal history, AAAAA supports A5494/S3419 in the New York Assembly and Senate. I urge your colleagues to pass these bills and to forward them to Governor Andrew Cuomo for signature and final enactment.

Sincerely yours,

LAURIE B. GOLDHEIM  
Adoption Director  
Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys