

# Family Preservation 365

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March 17, 2019

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

The Honorable David I. Weprin  
New York Assembly  
526 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248

**Re: S3419/A5494**

Dear Senator Montgomery and Assemblyman Weprin:

Family Preservation 365 is a family preservation advocacy group founded by adopted adults. One of our co-founders, Stephanie Mays Staats, is a New York State born adoptee. We are a global family preservation movement. Our mission is to empower vulnerable, expectant mothers and prevent family separation. fp365 is dedicated to building a strong foundation of advocates willing to provide local support, networking and community involvement. Additionally, we believe a critical piece of education and awareness is found by exploring the layers of lived experience. As we listen to those voices we will shift the current cultural narrative which promotes separation by adoption to one which celebrates the preservation of family.

Family Preservation 365 fully supports the Weprin/Montgomery Bill, A5494/S3419, which would allow unrestricted access to original birth certificates (OBC) by adopted adults. This bill would restore rights to adopted adults that they have been denied for over 80 years. Currently, adult adoptees in NY are denied the same access to their OBC that non-adopted adults enjoy.

Adoption was intended to be in the best interest of the child. We at fp365 believe that an adoption story MUST center on the voices of those most affected..the adopted. fp365 is dedicated to educate and shift the current cultural perceptions and narrative of adoption. We believe that equality in OBC access to adopted persons is one of the many policies and laws which requires change within our U.S. adoption system. We realize this must be done on a state-to-state basis and recognize that other states will look to New York as a progressive leader.

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We fully support A5494/S3419 as it's consistent with our advocacy mission, one of full disclosure and transparency.

Please feel free to share this letter and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Mays Staats

Reshma McClintock

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