



31 January 2024

RE: Bill # **DRJAR075 Adoption Education in Health Classes**

To Whom it May Concern,

Women facing unplanned pregnancy face a difficult dilemma, especially if they are unable or unwilling to parent. When they choose life, they should be celebrated. When they go on to choose parents who *are* ready, willing and able to raise children, they should be supported. This bill does that by ensuring they are informed and educated about their options, long before they are at a crisis point in their lives.

Background.

Young women who face unplanned pregnancy today choose between abortion and parenting partly because they don't know how adoption is done (current practices). The content is not included in the current health ed / sex ed curricula and even the instructors are not familiar with the way it works today. And many people confuse adoption and fostering, and thus have a negative perception of adoption. The world of adoption has changed SO much in the last 25 years that most people are unaware of the new standard practices, and unaware of how much 'say' the expectant woman has in the process.

But no one can learn about a weighty new topic during a time of crisis. If she is taught about current adoption when she's not in a crisis situation, she will have that knowledge at her fingertips when it's needed, or when a friend needs the suggestion.

Plus, studies show that young women are 50% more likely to choose adoption when their trusted advisor (mom, teacher, pastor) encourages them and explains it to them.

US adoption is healthier today than it has ever been. Education is needed in order for women to realize that adoption is an option, and how it is done today.

This bill will help by:

- **Increasing awareness through education about adoption as an option:** any Health Education class in Idaho schools that is already discussing contraception and/or STDs/STIs, will also add to the curriculum an explanation of current adoption practices in the US and in Idaho. This applies to middle and high schools.

- **Ensuring college students know about the option of adoption today.**

Whenever contraceptives are dispensed and/or testing/counseling for STDs/STIs is conducted at Idaho's public universities' and community colleges' student health centers, current adoption info will be given to the student.

Again, she cannot learn about all this if the first conversation is in a time of crisis. The information must be shared proactively, during a calm time. This will inform people that may want to choose life, but not parenting, that there is an option. Adoption.

On behalf of my organization, Unplanned Good, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support of this bill. Almost all adoption legislation in this country is drafted to benefit the adoptive parents, this bill aims to care for the women who voluntarily choose adoption because they know it is best for their baby. Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill, showing that Idaho does, indeed, care for the women who choose life and adoption!

Thank you.

Theresa Marcroft

Founder and Executive Director, **Unplanned Good Inc.**

Promoting the Concept of Adoption for those facing Unplanned Pregnancy since 2010

Cell: 408 656 1876

CA Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts # CT0173644

Federal DLN # 17053325340011