



California Alliance
OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

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APR 24 2009

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Mike Feuer
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 319-2188

RE: Support for AB 372 (Ma)

Dear Assemblymember Feuer:

The California Alliance of Child and Family Services, representing more than 120 nonprofit agencies that provide an array of services and support to over 50,000 of California's most vulnerable children and families, is pleased to support AB 372 (Ma). AB 372 would improve the ability of adoptees to access their original birth record in California.

Currently, existing law requires that an adoptee show compelling cause and obtain a superior court order to receive a copy of their original birth certificate. AB 372 would require the State Registrar to provide a copy of the original birth certificate to an adoptee, upon receiving a request for such a record, when the adoptee attains at least the age of 25, unless the birth parent has signed a state form requesting that the State Registrar not provide a copy of the birth certificate to the adoptee. Therefore, AB 372 will give thousands of adult citizens adopted in California an opportunity to know their original identity.

The California Alliance believes that for many adoptees, there are many unanswered questions and the information obtained in a birth certificate about one's heritage and background can be crucial to a person's lifelong success and development. For these reasons, we are proud to support AB 372. If I may provide you with additional information regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 449-2273, extension 21.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Rutheiser

Jacqueline M. Rutheiser
Senior Policy Advocate