

Thank you so much, Amber.

If you could pass along the following thoughts as well, I would greatly appreciate it:

I certainly understand and respect common procedure limiting public comment to public hearings. However, I am an adopted person, and H.629 is a bill directly and exclusively related to my rights as an adopted person. I'm in communication with two additional Vermont adoptees—Ellie Lane and Rebecca Dragon—who are also eager to speak to the committee about this bill's impact on their rights. The committee should prioritize hearing testimony from the stakeholders whose civil rights will either be restored or restricted depending on the bill's final draft. Those stakeholders are Vermonters who are adopted. Testimony from legal counsel, DCF staff, and adoption attorneys can serve as useful adjuncts, but they are not the primary stakeholders in this legislation. Adopted individuals are.

I'd respectfully ask that the Chair and committee members invite and prioritize the testimonies of adopted Vermonters as they move forward.

All the best,
Rebekah