

Sen. Nader Hasim, Chair

Sen. Robert Norris, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary State House, Room 1

Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Testimony in support of H.98, An Act relating to Confirmatory Adoption

March 29, 2025

Dear Chair Hashim, Vice Chair Norris, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Mel Baiser, I'm a 7th generation Vermont – currently residing in Brattleboro, VT, and a proud parent to a 12-year-old son. I am writing to encourage you to please support the Confirmatory Adoption Bill H.98.

During the early days of the prior Trump administration in 2017, my family went through the arduous process of me completing a second parent adoption out of fear of having my parental rights disregarded and/or taken away because of not being the birth parent in a same sex family. As the non-birth parent, I was still involved in the planning, conceiving, birthing, and parenting of our child. I found the process of having to adopt my own child humiliating, time consuming, and discriminatory. I love this state and would hope to see Vermont do better to provide safety, justice, and equal access and protection under the law for our many loving queer families as well as an easier, more streamlined and less burdensome process. I am fully in support of the Confirmatory Adoption Bill H.98 and urge you to please vote the bill out of committee favorably.

Sincerely,

Mel Baiser

Mel Baiser

61 Upper Forest St.

Brattleboro, VT 05301