

7-1047

Floor Comments for House Bill 1081:

* I introduced this bill in response to the recognition within the medical and adoption communities that knowledge of family medical histories is vitally important for the long-term health of every individual.

* Most of us are able to obtain this information. But, adoptees can't be assured that they have all of this information because PA's current adoption law doesn't account for situations where natural parents remember or find out about this information after the adoption's finalization.

* For adoptees, this gap in the law can have terrible and potentially life-threatening ramifications: (1) they may not be able to obtain adequate preventative or emergency medical care; (2) and, as adults, they may not have information important to their family planning, which may have an impact on their children's medical well-being.

while maintaining confidentiality of

* My bill would insure that family medical history information about the natural parents, including that which may be relevant to a potential hereditary or congenital medical problem, reaches the adoptee whenever this information becomes known. The adoption community is supportive of this concept and recognizes the need for this amendment to the current law.

* I think we have a responsibility to children who are brought into this world and who are adopted to insure that this medical information always reaches them, and I ask that you support this bill.

While maintaining confidentiality of birth parent.

LARRY O. SATHER, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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March 18, 1993

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Larry O. Sather

Larry O. Sather

In the near future I will be introducing the attached legislation to provide medical history information about natural parents, where practicable, be delivered by the attending physician or other designated person to the intermediary who shall deliver such information to the adopting parents or their physician.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Nancy in my office at 7-3335.

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December 7, 1993

The Honorable Kevin Blaum, Chairman
Aging and Youth Committee
Room 38A - East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Kevin:

Just a note of appreciation for the follow-up and interest being shown after our conversation regarding legislation (HB 1081) which I sponsored and is currently with the Aging and Youth Committee. As mentioned previously I feel this is needed legislation which deserves consideration.

Jane Mendlow of your staff contacted me yesterday and we discussed the concerns that may arise with this proposal. I am willing to work with an amendment that may be necessary as to how the information provided will be disseminated.

Once again, I would like to see this legislation moved through committee and every consideration given to it will be greatly appreciated by this sponsor. Should there be any further questions or input needed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry O. Sather".

Larry O. Sather

LOS/nlp

cc: Representative Leonard Q. Gruppo

Enclosure

KEVIN BLAUM, CHAIRMAN
AGING AND YOUTH COMMITTEE



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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 13, 1993

The Honorable Larry O. Sather
Room B-7 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

DEC 14 1993

Dear Larry:

Thank you for expressing your strong interest in the adoption bill concerning medical history information which you sponsored and is now in the Aging and Youth Committee.

The goal of HB 1081, as I understand it, is to provide as much information as possible to the adoptive parents regarding the hereditary or congenital medical problems of the biological parents, even if the conditions may not be evident at the adoptee's birth. Such information could become extremely important in the care and treatment of the adoptee as a child and adult.

I want to reassure you that your bill will be included in upcoming hearings the committee will hold on issues relating to adoption. There are many reforms needed in the area of adoption law and the committee will be taking a thorough look at recommendations for improvements. As soon as hearings are scheduled, my office will contact you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Blaum", written over a large, stylized loop.

KEVIN BLAUM, Chairman
Aging and Youth Committee

KB/cmh

KEVIN BLAUM, CHAIRMAN
AGING AND YOUTH COMMITTEE



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HARRISBURG

June 2, 1994

JUN - 2 1994

Rep. Larry O. Sather
Room B-7 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

Dear Larry:

Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding the status of HB 1081, which clarifies that medical history information of an adoptee includes information concerning potential hereditary or congenital medical problems of the adoptee's birth parents.

I want to assure you that I support this legislation. However, I do have concerns that our current law focuses primarily on the sharing of medical information when the child is born and does not provide for a mechanism by which birth parents can update the information later in life as the birth parents discover additional, significant, medical information about themselves.

Over the summer months the Aging and Youth Committee will hold several public informational hearings to solicit expert opinion and obtain recommendations on several aspects of adoption law. Unfortunately the hearing scheduled on May 26 with the Allegheny Permanency Planning Task Force had to be postponed. As soon as hearing dates are set, you will be notified.

Your patience in working with me to improve the adoption law is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Blaum".

KEVIN BLAUM, Chairman
Aging and Youth Committee

KB/cmh

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June 22, 1994

Representative Kevin Blaum
Chairman
Aging & Youth Committee
Room 38A - East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Kevin:

It is my understanding that the Aging & Youth Committee will be conducting a hearing on Foster Care and Adoption on June 28th, here in Harrisburg. In light of this, House Bill 1081 is on my mind again.

I appreciate knowing that you support this legislation and I understand your concerns that were expressed. I believe we are working toward the same goal of trying to improve the adoption laws. Therefore, I would ask that you keep in mind that I am willing to work with an amendment to House Bill 1081 to address those concerns.

As I have expressed earlier, this legislation is also a personal concern to me due to the involvement of a family member. So, once again, I ask that you keep this legislation in mind. Your assistance and cooperation is acknowledged and appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry O. Sather".

Larry O. Sather

LOS/nlp

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October 18, 1994

Representative Leonard Gruppo
Republican Chairman
Aging and Youth Committee
Room 47 - East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Len:

A slightly belated, but very sincere, thank you for your assistance and advice in moving House Bill 1081 out of committee and through its passage on the House floor on October 5th.

Needless to say, it was personally gratifying to me, as a Freshman member, to have this bill passed unanimously. I am sure we will have to "do it again" next session, and perhaps the next time will be easier.

Once again, thank you. Your assistance was appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry O. Sather".

Larry O. Sather

LOS/nlp

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October 18, 1994

Representative Kevin Blaum
Chairman
Aging and Youth Committee
Room 38A - East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Kevin:

Just a note to offer a sincere thank you for all your assistance leading to the passage of House Bill 1081. A thank you should go to your staff, Jane Mendlow, for her assistance also.

As I am sure you are aware, this was a personal matter for me as well as for many others that could be helped with this legislation. It was also personally gratifying for me, as a Freshman legislator, to be able to have a piece of legislation considered worthy of movement.

I am reasonably sure we will have to "do it again" next session and, hopefully, be able to see it signed into law.

Once again, thank you for working with me on this. Your cooperation was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry O. Sather".

Larry O. Sather

LOS/nlp

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October 31, 1994

The Honorable Robert C. Jubelirer
President Pro Tempore
Senate of Pennsylvania
Room 535 - Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Bob: *pat*

On October 5, 1994, House Bill 1081, which I sponsored, was unanimously passed on the floor of the House, in a bipartisan effort. It currently is with the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Briefly, this bill amends the Adoption Act to require that medical history information be provided about the natural parents, whether or not in existence or discoverable at the time of the adoption, regarding potential hereditary or congenital medical problems. The confidentiality of the birth parents would be maintained.

I would respectfully request any assistance you might be able to provide to have this legislation promptly considered in committee and brought before the full Senate for consideration before the end of this session. I realize that time is a factor in having this done, and any assistance you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Larry O. Sather
Larry O. Sather

LOS/nlp

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October 17, 1994

Kirsten Crawford
Aging and Youth Committee
Republican Research Staff
Room 3 - Capitol Annex
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Kirsten:

A short, but very sincere, note to say thank you for all the hard and conscientious work you did for the passage of House Bill 1081. As you know this was my first piece of legislation to be passed in the House and it was personally very important to me.

Although I am sure we will probably have to "do it again" next session, the thought and work put into this piece of legislation was greatly appreciated. Maybe the next time will be easier.

Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry O. Sather".

Larry O. Sather

LOS/nlp