

March 20, 2018

TO: Federal and State Affairs Committee

RE: Proponent of HB 2687 and SB 401

Dear Committee,

I am the Executive Director of St. Nick Adoptions, LLC, a Kansas Corporation facilitating faith based adoptions. What I write I write with malice towards none.

Through my adoption agency, I conduct ministry whose primary goal is offering to unsupported women the opportunity to grow in faith and love of Jesus Christ. I facilitate adoption through meeting both physical and spiritual needs, offering not only an adoptive placement for their child, but also an opportunity for their own life to be renewed through the support that comes from a loving, Christian community. You can see what this effort looks like on my St. Nick Adoptions facebook page.

Many of the women I support struggle with addiction, abuse and human trafficking; I am interested in life transformation for them as much as I am interested in saving their baby. As I talk with them about their own spiritual condition, the love and forgiveness of God the Father, the practical benefits of celibacy outside of marriage and the opportunity to reconstruct their lives inside “rules for living that lead to peace and wholeness”, I would be a hypocrite to then offer adoptive families whose lifestyles are inconsistent with my sincerely held religious beliefs.

It is the teaching of my faith tradition, and the experience of my personal life, that children do best within a two parent family, where the foundation of the home is a strong Christian marriage. I was a single mother for many years, and despite my very best efforts, my children did not enjoy the many benefits that I now find them growing from within my Christian marriage. My personal experience validates the teaching of my Christian faith in this and many other regards. Two parent Christian marriage is not only directed by my Christian faith, it is a practical combatant to many of the things that are tearing children apart in our culture today.

I do not offer ANY opinion whatsoever as to whom other adoption agencies should serve; God matches children to their parents through adoption and God is not “sending me memo’s” about whom other agencies should serve. However, the idea that I could be sued for conducting my professional life, in all good faith and within the boundaries of what my faith tradition teaches is necessary for my compliance with the will of God, feels both unreasonable and unconstitutional; I wish to express my religion through my professional life.

I would feel exactly the same way and support a Jewish adoption agency only placing children into Jewish families, a Muslim agency only placing babies or orphans within their own faith tradition and so on. I support equality for all people under the law in honoring their own faith teachings; I also ask that this apply to Christian people as well.

Thank you for your consideration and for your thoughtful contemplation of this issue.

Respectfully,

Julian Thomas
St. Nick Adoptions, LLC