

**Cara DeCoursey**  
**March 20, 2018**  
**In Support of HB 2687**

My name is Cara DeCoursey. I am here today in support of The Adoption Protection Act. This bill is important to me because I placed my son for adoption 28 years ago. I was a young girl faced with an unplanned pregnancy and I found strength in using a Faith Based Adoption Agency. Choosing adoption, for me, was a decision made out of necessity. I was too young to raise a baby. It was also a decision made out of love. I wanted what was best for my child, and that was a family with a Mom and a Dad. I was born and raised Catholic and this is what I wanted for my son. My adoption agency also wanted what was best for me and they had a Catholic Family that wanted to adopt my son. This was God's plan. And I also feel it's God's plan for me to be here today asking for your support on The Adoption Protection Act.

Being a mother is the most important role I have ever been given. I wouldn't want to take that anyway from anyone, and this bill would not take that away from anyone. There are resources for all individuals wanting to become a parent. Birthmothers, and adoptive families, should have the option to choose Faith Based agencies to help them through this difficult process. Faith Based organizations also provide homes for minority children, older children, and children faced with disabilities. To close the door for these children would truly be a disservice.

Placing my son for adoption was the most difficult decision I've ever had to make. It's also one of the best decisions I've ever made. Zach, my 28 year old son, is now a successful pharmacist specializing in oncology medications to help patients fighting cancer. He wants to make this world a better place. He loves Jesus Christ and I can proudly say that I had a part in his love for the Catholic Church.

Please help us in passing The Adoption Protection Act so we may give all birthmothers, and adoptive parents, the opportunity to work with faith-based agencies.

Thank you.