



PHONE: 609.896.1766 | FAX: 609.896.1368 | WEB SITE: www.msnj.org

2 PRINCESS ROAD | LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ 08648-2302

December 1, 2009

Honorable Sheila Y. Oliver
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
15-33 Halsted Street, Suite 202
East Orange, NJ 07018

Dear Madam Chair:

The Medical Society of New Jersey, on behalf of the physicians and patients of our great State, urges the consideration of A-752 and S-611 by the Assembly Human Services Committee. This legislation, sponsored by Assemblyman Prieto and Senators Vitale and Allen, respectively, as well as 31 cosponsors in both houses, would bring a much needed modernization to the adoption laws of our State.

We appreciate the emotional charge associated with this issue, and sympathize with those whose visceral reaction may be apprehension, but the evolution of our understanding of heredity's role in a person's health deserves a corresponding evolution of our laws. If birth parents insist on nondisclosure of names and addresses, at the very least their child should have access to the medical histories of the birth parents, and these bills provide that right.

A patient's medical heredity impacts the delivery of care at every point: from a discussion about health and diet during a wellness visit, to understanding a woman's risk of breast cancer, to the interpretation of acute symptoms of a patient presenting in an emergency department. To deny an entire class of people this critical component of care delivery imposes a disparity indefensible in the 21st Century.

Once again, as representatives of our physicians their patients, we urge committee consideration of A-752 and S-611. We thank you for your time and consideration of this request, and look forward to your continued partnership in matters of patient care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Reichman, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph H. Reichman, MD
President

Cc: Honorable Joseph Roberts
New Jersey Coalition for Adoption Reform & Education