

Human Services Committee  
Representative Weisz, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Susan Grundysen.

I am the Program Director of Adoption Services through The Village Family Service Center. As a licensed child placing agency, we have been providing adoption services since 1891. I am writing to oppose HB 1317. While I support women who consider adoption for their child, and although likely well-intentioned when written, I have two main concerns regarding the passage of this bill which makes me oppose this bill:

1) Coercion.

- a. Concerns exist related to the potential for women in crisis to continue a pregnancy, receive assurance medical bills will be covered, and then be “beholding” to a system to release their child for adoption as a part of getting their medical bills paid. This is too close to coercion, if not upfront, certainly after birth, and could certainly meet the threshold of duress.
- b. Concerns also exist related to the potential for women in crisis to continue a pregnancy, receive assurance medical bills will be covered, and then have her plans be hijacked by a biological father to the child who does not support the adoption plan. Or, as is often the case, by the time the child is born, circumstances and emotions have changed, and adoption is no longer the desired plan by the mother for her baby. This leaves a woman vulnerable and beholding to a plan she no longer desires.

2) Discrimination.

- a. The requirement of the adoptive couple to be married and of the opposite sex is discriminatory to both single persons and those persons who do not describe themselves in the traditional, heterosexual definition.

Thank you.

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