Distributed By Senator Bill Wielechowski Senate Finance Committee 4/12/22

From: <u>Tracy_Smith</u>

To: Sen. Bill Wielechowski

Subject: Adoption Law that doesn"t make sense (corrected)

Date: Friday, May 7, 2021 5:16:50 PM

Senator Wielechowski,

This past Christmas my husband was gifted with the best gift he could ever have asked for. The little girl he's helped raise since she was a month, old who has recently turned 21, presented him with adoption papers. The entire family cried tears of joy along with him as we all knew how much this meant to the both of them. Her biological father has never been a part of her life and even though my husband never married her mother and they did not remain a couple, he has always treated her as his own. When they finally got their hearing earlier this week the judge told them that because of some misguided law, he would not be allowed to adopt her because he is married and the only way that would work is if we were both adopting her. I love this young lady with all my heart but she has an excellent mother and no one wants to replace her on Amia's birth certificate.

Needless to say the tears that followed this hearing were not of joy.

My husband and bonus daughter are meeting with council through family court today but they will most likely tell them the same thing. She is an adult and wanting to put the only father she has ever known on her birth certificate to make it official. Is there anything that can be done through legislation to change the law that is currently blocking her from doing that? Thank you for taking the time to read this.



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