



Learn the **REAL** “right lessons about adoption.”
Actions Speak Louder Than Words

A Bastard Response to the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute’s Appropriation of Adoptee Rights

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute (EBD) is producing today’s event (March 10, 2011) at the Hard Rock New York hoping to impart its concept of “the right lessons about adoption.” Prior to taking advice from an institute founded by an adoption agency, we as adopted people urge a closer look at the actual details of legislation and the policy it supports as well as its potential effect on our rights.

Despite EBD’s pretense to adoptee rights and its usurpation of our lexicon and negation of our history, its legislative/policy efforts to date have effectively led to the establishment of an underclass of adoptees left behind. They represent a subset artificially deemed “expendable,” reduced to merely watching from the sidelines as the rights of other adoptees have been restored. EBD’s support for such has not been an anomaly; instead it has shown an ongoing pattern of providing support for discriminatory legislation.

As a current example, in February, Adam Pertman, executive director of EBD submitted testimony urging “swift passage” of New Jersey A1406. If passed, the legislation would:

- **Seal the records** of all children passing through the state’s legalized child abandonment (“safe haven”) scheme
- Segregate out a new class of adoptees locked behind vetoes and other restrictions, **barred from gaining access to their state confiscated Original Birth Certificates (OBCs)**
- Create an adoption industry liability shield, stripping adopted people and their families of their ability to sue agencies
- **Coerce some mothers** into handing over their medical histories to the government, **a gross violation of women’s medical privacy**

A1406 does not represent a genuine adoptee rights bill. Instead this bill stands to deprive adoptees and their family members of their rights. **REAL** adoptee rights legislation simply restores adopted people’s access to their original birth certificates, ensuring that people, whether adopted or not, receive equal treatment and equal OBC access under law.



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