



Tom Brinkman, Jr.
State Representative, 34th House District

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**Sponsor Testimony of
Representative Tom Brinkman, Jr.
before the House Health Committee**

House Bill 7

January 9, 2008

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Health Committee, I am here to offer testimony on H.B. 7, my adoption bill.

Over a year ago I was challenged to come up with a bill that would make adoptions faster, easier and less costly. I have introduced legislation to ban abortions, but had not done anything to help with a viable alternative – that of adoption.

The bill you have before you is the result of a year of work on the part of many dedicated professionals. This bill includes the ideas and concerns of more than two dozen interested parties. There has been much give and take in this bill. What might benefit one group might not benefit the other and vice versa. This bill has been developed to take all of these issues into account. I firmly believe that the bill we have here is a great piece of legislation!

In a nutshell, this bill deals with:

- Opening adoption records to adoptees;
- Allowing for open adoptions;
- Aligning the adoption and foster care home study;
- Creates a Child Centered Recruitment Task Force to establish recommended procedures for finding adoptive parents for foster children;
- And other items of interest.

Following my testimony, I have Greg Kapcar from the Public Children's Services Association of Ohio and Betsie Norris from the Adoption Network of Cleveland to explain in a bit more detail some of the items included in this bill.

After they testify, I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding House Bill 7.

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