

In support of SB 814

My name is Sage Carter and I live in Portland, OR. For many years I knew I did not want to parent so when I found out I was pregnant, much to my surprise and too late to have an abortion, I had to explore a new set of options. I chose Open Adoption & Family Services because of their mission to serve and honor every person in the adoption triad. I knew that if I was working with the right organization who shared my belief in non-religious and non-traditional family adoptions that we could figure out the rest. Because I wasn't under the state's purview I was able to research, explore, and decide what would happen to me and my child.

Most people can name at least one person in their lives who has been touched by an adoption story. Yet, the antiquated and stigmatized views on adoption are still prevalent. The reason for this is a lack of awareness and education on what modern, compassionate, and truly open adoptions look like. At OA&FS and in our family we are all respected as an integral part of raising a child. As a birthmom, I am no less important, I just play a different role and OA&FS taught us how to boldly make space for everyone.

When people don't have these kinds of choices and supports for their families there can only be one outcome: the devastation of family separation. In Oregon we need to find more solutions that put children first. Providing open adoption as an option before separation is a huge step in the right direction and why I am in support of Senate Bill 814. The truly open part of adoption allows families to remain in each other's lives and there can be nothing more important to a child.

Almost 7 years later, my family and I still remind each other, in pure amazement, that we were given the gift of building a family together that supports and nurtures our little boy. That is our only job. We live humbly in that gratitude which makes the rest of it easy. Open adoptions should be available as an option for all families.