

On **Wednesday September 18**, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee is having a hearing to address issues related to medical and mental health care for Texans. STAR is hoping that the Texas Senate will hear your voices,... that Vital Records Are Vital!

Here is the hearing notice:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/schedules/html/C6102024091809001.HTM>

**There are 2 ways to testify: 1) in writing or 2) in person.**

### **Testifying in Writing**

We recommend that everyone submits written testimony, even if you are planning on testifying in person. STAR has a strong tradition of having well over 150 people provide written testimony in hearings. A strong showing lets the legislators know how many people are affected by proposed legislation.

In order to submit written testimony, please follow the steps below:

- 1) Write a letter stating that you are in support of adult adopted Texans having access to their OBCs. State clearly why having access to your OBC could or has allowed you to gain life-affirming medical and mental health information or care. (e.g.; adopted teens are 4 times more likely to attempt suicide than non-adopted teens; I found out a disease runs in my family and I was able to prevent it; I did not have access to information and I did not get proper medical care; my children or grandchildren have medical conditions that cannot be diagnosed because one of their parents is adopted)
- 2) Put "In support of adoptees right to access their original birth certificate" as the subject line of the email.
- 3) Send an email with your letter to the following Senators, who are the members of Health and Human Services Committee:

[Lois.Kolkhorst@senate.texas.gov](mailto:Lois.Kolkhorst@senate.texas.gov)

[charles.perry@senate.texas.gov](mailto:charles.perry@senate.texas.gov)

[Cesar.Blanco@senate.texas.gov](mailto:Cesar.Blanco@senate.texas.gov)

[bob.hall@senate.texas.gov](mailto:bob.hall@senate.texas.gov)

[kelly.hancock@senate.texas.gov](mailto:kelly.hancock@senate.texas.gov)

[bryan.hughes@senate.texas.gov](mailto:bryan.hughes@senate.texas.gov)

[morgan.lamantia@senate.texas.gov](mailto:morgan.lamantia@senate.texas.gov)

[borris.miles@senate.texas.gov](mailto:borris.miles@senate.texas.gov)

[kevin.sparks@senate.texas.gov](mailto:kevin.sparks@senate.texas.gov)

4) Please also send an email to [star@texasadopterights.org](mailto:star@texasadopterights.org) so we can keep track of how many folks have submitted written testimony.

5) Note that if you submit written testimony in person at the hearing, 20 copies total are required to be shared with the Senators and their staff.

### **Testifying in Person -**

The Health and Human Services Committee expects many people to come to testify about a variety of issues on September 18th. Thus, we are unable to guarantee a time that you might be able to testify or even whether or not you will be able to testify. If you are planning on being present, please let us know at [star@texasadopteerights.org](mailto:star@texasadopteerights.org) and check the Support Texas Adoptee Rights FB page for updates about when and if testimony is likely to happen.

- 1) Look at the STAR FB page and find out who from STAR will be present during the time you plan to come.
- 2) Write your testimony, stating that you are in support of adult adopted Texans having access to their OBCs. State clearly why having access to your OBC could or has allowed you to gain life-affirming medical and mental health information or care. (see above pointers for written testimony and note that 20 copies are required if submitted at the hearing).

Questions? Comments? Email us or join us on Google Meet at **4 p.m. Sunday.**

STAR Health and Human Services Committee Meeting Q&A

Sunday, September 15 · 4:00 – 5:00pm

Time zone: America/Chicago

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xhn-jmhp-jie>

Or dial: (US) +1 316-835-1012 PIN: 838 306 124#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/xhn-jmhp-jie?pin=5730502697467>

**We look forward to hearing your advocacy!**