

I will be unable to attend the Senate hearing on the RFRA legislation tomorrow, but would like to have my voice heard on the matter.

As an adult adoptee, who has been through the foster care system in the state of Michigan, I am appalled that the legislature is pushing to allow for, and tacitly promote, the discrimination of loving families who want to help children. Children who are today, in a situation I was in over 30 years ago. Children who are without a family, without someone who can care for them.

The legislature is not only discriminating against individuals who wish to help and love these children, it is discriminating against the children. It's telling those kids that they don't deserve a chance. They're not worth it. This legislation could have stopped my adoption.

I was fortunate enough to be adopted by two wonderful parents who gave me a chance to succeed in life. Whose love and support helped me become the man I am today. A husband, father, and contributing member of society. Telling potential parents and foster parents who are otherwise qualified "NO" because of their religion or sexual orientation is nothing short of disgusting. We are better than that as a society.

The parents and would be parents of the state of Michigan deserve better than that.

The children of the state of Michigan deserve better than that.

Matthew A. Toaz