

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Gay Adoption Bill Aims to Keep Foster Families Intact**

Families Lobby for Legislation that Considers the  
Child's Best Interest in Certain Adoption Cases

(Tallahassee) Democratic lawmakers, families and child advocates from across the state today called on the Florida Legislature to pass a bill that would allow children to be adopted by gay foster parents.

Florida is the only state with a statutory ban that prevents a child from being adopted by a person, no matter how well qualified, simply because the person is gay. The legislation, SB 1012 and HB 789, would allow a judge to determine whether such an adoption is in the best interests of the child.

“There are thousands of foster care children in Florida who want, more than anything, a permanent home and a family to call their own,” said Senator Nan Rich (D-Weston), sponsor of the Senate bill. “This legislation would change Florida’s law to allow children to be adopted by gay and lesbian families and would add many loving individuals to the pool of possible adoptive parents who are willing to open their hearts and make a lifetime commitment to caring for and nurturing children.”

The legislation would also permit a gay individual to adopt a child if that person is named as the child’s guardian and the biological parents of the child are deceased.

“I believe every child deserves to live in a permanent loving home,” said Representative Mary Brandenburg (D-Lake Worth). “I believe this so profoundly that I have taken the lead in the Florida House to make it a reality.”

The Senate bill has been referred to two committees: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, and Judiciary. The House bill is currently in the Committee on Healthy Families and has also been referred to Policy & Budget Council.

*The Coalition for Fair Adoption is a group of child welfare, faith and human rights organizations and individuals dedicated to ensuring that the “best interest of the child” is the only criteria for making fair adoption decisions.*

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