

Exhibit I



March 3, 2016

The Honorable Tate Reeves
Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi

RE: MS HB 1523

Dear Lieutenant Governor,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out in support of HB 1523, otherwise known as the "Religious Liberty Accommodations Act.

New Beginnings International Children's and Family Services, Inc. (hereafter New Beginnings) was founded and licensed in 1986. From the onset, New Beginnings has publically and in policy set itself forth as a Christian, faith-based agency. Every member of the Board of Directors and staff has signed a Statement of Faith that clearly sets forth the deeply held beliefs of the agency.

The Mission and Beliefs of this agency are founded on the written Word of God as set forth in the Holy Bible. In addition, we practice respect for the values and beliefs of others so long as, in practice, they do not violate our right to hold to our values and beliefs.

We believe marriage is between one man and one woman. We believe the best outcome for every child results from being raised in a two-parent home with a male and female role model.

In our experience, we have never had a birthmother request a same-sex couple to adopt her child. However, we have had at least five birthmothers who identified themselves as lesbians seek our services because they wanted a two-parent, male and female home for their children.

Allowing us to live out our deeply held beliefs will not prevent a same-sex couple from working with an agency that allows same-sex adoption. We have already referred couples identifying themselves as "same sex" to agencies in other states who do not hold the same beliefs as we do. Allowing Mississippi's agencies to hold to our beliefs will not prevent or harm the attempts of some to seek adoption services elsewhere.

New Beginnings International Children's & Family Services, Inc.
www.NewBeginningsAdoptions.org



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If same-sex adoption services are forced upon our agency, and other agencies in Mississippi, traditional, male-female couples may be harmed if Bible believing agencies choose to close their doors.

Thank you in advance for your unwavering support of HB 1523 and the corresponding bill in the Mississippi Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Velie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'T'.

**Thomas M. "Tom" Velie
President**