



GUEST COLUMN

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State Senator Scott Oelslager

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ADULT ADOPTION BILL PASSES SENATE

Recently, my colleagues and I in the Ohio Senate approved a bill that I believe will help strengthen families across the state by allowing adult adoption. Previously, individuals were unable to adopt their spouse's children from a previous marriage if the child was age 18 or older at the time of the marriage.

House Bill 92 will allow individuals to adopt an adult child as long as the child gives consent to the adoption. As chairman of the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee that debated House Bill 92, I was pleased to have the opportunity to work on this legislation, as it will provide step-families the ability to become whole by legally uniting adult step-children through adoption.

Representative Jarrod Martin said that he was inspired to introduce the legislation because of constituents in his district. A family in Representative Martin's district was unable to complete their family through adult adoption in Ohio because the wife's son was 18 before their marriage took place.

In addition to allowing step-parents the ability to adopt their spouse's adult children, the bill also permits the adoption of an adult who is totally *or* permanently disabled. This change was suggested by an Iraq War Veteran in Representative Tim Derickson's district who was taken in by a family who wished to adopt him. However, the adoption could not take place because current Ohio law requires an adult to be totally *and* permanently disabled.

With the passage of this bill, Ohio will join more than 40 other states with similar laws regarding adult adoptions. House Bill 92 received unanimous support in the Senate and now awaits the Governor's signature.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or concerns about any state-related matter. You can reach my office by phone at (614) 466-0626, by e-mail at SD29@senate.state.oh.us or by writing State Senator Scott Oelslager, Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215.

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State Senator Scott Oelslager represents the 29th Ohio Senate District, which includes portions of Stark County. For more information, please visit www.ohiosenate.gov/scott-oelslager.