

Dear Birth Parent,

We cannot begin to understand the position you are in, but we can understand that you are making a selfless decision. We want to thank you for reading our letter and considering us as your child's adoptive parents.

On our first date, we both talked about how we always knew adoption was going to be part of our story. After we got married, we sat down and had a long discussion about passing on our combined genes to a child. During that discussion, we came to the realization that adoption was the best way for us to start our family. We have both envisioned ourselves as parents and can't wait to pass on some of our other "genes"- love of the Chicago Bears, love of a good sandwich, and love of a great early 2000s rom com.

We understand that if we are blessed to parent a child whose racial or cultural identity is different from our own, that identity will always be a beautiful and essential part of who they are. We want the child to grow up not only feeling loved and secure in our family, but also deeply connected to their heritage and proud of where they come from.

We are fortunate to have an amazing support system here in Saint Louis, with Maura's parents only being minutes away. But with that, having openness in the adoption is something we would find to be important to the support system of the child. We would love you to be part of that support system in the capacity that you are comfortable with.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Whatever your choice ends up being, we wish you peace and love.

With heartfelt thanks,

Maura and Caleb