

My name is Carol Hudak. I live in Trumbull, CT. I am speaking in favor of SB 296.

I am an adoptee.

I liken being adopted to being in the Witness Protection Program. Regardless of how loving your adoptive parents were, this is not a substitute for the core need of knowing your blood identity. Your roots, your mirrors, your ancestry, - the mother and father whose blood flows in your veins. All of my life I have felt a piece of me was missing; that I had no foundation; that I was on the outside looking in.

Try this: leave here tonight and pull into a stranger's yard. Knock on the door. Say, 'Hi, I'm home.' Then see how odd it feels to be there. You are not home, and you know it.

Wanting to know who gave me birth does not detract from my love for my adoptive mother. I nursed her night and day for the last 3 1/2 years of her life. She was in a wheel chair, couldn't speak and had dementia. My adoptive mother wanted me to find my birth family. 3 years ago I did just that.

I met my full birth sister at Catholic Charities. The social worker, a total stranger, held our birth file and said, "*I'm sorry, but I cannot tell you who you are.*"

WHAT??? "But you're a stranger." Yes, the State of CT has legally allowed total strangers to know our identities and medical history, but will not allow us to know!

How can this be legal?????

My experience at Catholic Charities was one of the most demeaning experiences of my life. I felt like a 4 year old who was being punished.

If you believe we will force ourselves on our birth mothers, you are very wrong. Many adult adoptees still bear the wounds of abandonment, and strongly fear being rejected, yet again.

Many adoptees will only want to know their real names. Wanting to know our real, blood identities, is natural and normal. Unnatural, un-normal and discriminatory, is the present law.

Kindly restore to us the right to know, *who we are*. Thank you.

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