

In support of Raised Senate Bill 296

AN ACT PROVIDING CERTAIN ADULT ADOPTED PERSONS WITH ACCESS TO PARENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION AND INFORMATION IN THEIR ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

March 6, 2012

Co-Chair Gerratana, Co-Chair Urban, Committee Members and fellow advocates,

I am here today to speak in support of SB 296 which serves to allow adult adopted persons born in Connecticut to obtain a copy of their original birth certificate while allowing the mothers who gave them birth to state their preference for contact.

I support this bill because this autonomy for adopted persons was wrongfully taken from them in the 1970's and it is the means by which the state of Connecticut can reinstate what I believe is a basic right.

I support this bill because I do not believe that adopted persons should have to live by rules, not applied to the rest of society, just because of the circumstances of their birth.

I surrendered a child for adoption in 1975. I support this bill because I believe that my now adult child should not be denied a freedom others enjoy because of a decision I made for her in infancy.

The certificate that records the original event of one's birth is the most personal of information. I support this bill because I do not believe it is the roll of law to keep personal information secret from the individual to whom that information belongs but only to protect the individual from having their personal information obtained by those who have no right to it.

This subject is not unfamiliar to the legislature and past debates over it have been emotional ones. After all, it goes to the heart of our most private behavior; our sexuality and the judgment placed on it by society. But emotion cannot be the only basis for good law. I ask the committee for your courage and vision as you decide SB 296. The states of Kansas and Alaska have never denied their adopted citizens this right. Now, just as the great states of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and others have done in recent years, please take this opportunity to lead and restore this right for adult adopted persons in Connecticut.

Thank you.

Submitted by Holly Harlow,

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