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Attachments: Testimony.jpg

LARRY AND CAROL DEBEAR

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Public Health Committee
Room 3000 Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

I want to register my support for Revised Bill 5144, An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adopted Persons.

Prior to 1975, adoptees born in Connecticut had a legal right to obtain their true original birth certificates when they reached the age of majority. For some reason, this right was taken away that year.

This legislation would restore that right for adult adoptees, along with the right to obtain health information about adoptees' birth parents. For many adoptees, this is a humane right, giving them the opportunity to know the identities and perhaps make contact with those who brought them into this world. It's also a human right, an opportunity to learn whether their birth parents and their families had any health issues that might pose risks for the families of the adoptees.

Several states have already approved legislation allowing adult adoptees the unrestricted access to original birth certificates, including the New England states of Rhode Island, Maine, and New Hampshire. Connecticut should join them.

I urge your committee and the entire General Assembly to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,



Carol DeBear
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