

Christine Gustafson 5144

To Public Health Committee Co-Chairs Senator Terry Gerratana and Representative Susan Johnson, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

I am writing to ask for your support of Raised Bill 5144, An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adoptive Persons.

I am an adoptee, sister of an adoptee and step mother to an adopted son. I was born in New York State and did not find out I was adopted until I was thirty four years old and pregnant with my son. As New York is also one of those states who denies access to original birth certificates, I have been unsuccessful in learning anything about my birth parents. Although I am a very healthy senior and likely the offspring of at least one parent who might still be alive, it is not my goal to find those parents. I want to know so I can pass the information on to my children and their children in the future.

I strongly believe that ALL adult adoptees should have access to their original birth certificates, and the bill should be both retroactive and prospective.

Thank-you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Gustafson

51 Fairview Terrace

South Glastonbury, CT 06073