

Dawn Goodyear

To the Connecticut Public Health Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support Bill 5144, which will be heard at Public Hearing this Friday, February 28, 2014.

This bill is particularly important as adoption is an integral part of my family. My husband of many years was adopted in Connecticut and born in 1959. My sister in law was born and adopted in Connecticut in 1956. As you may know, access to an adoptees original birth certificate was revoked in 1975, significantly reducing the likelihood that a person born and adopted in Connecticut can find the medical history of their biological family.

My husband and I also have a 17 year old biological daughter. Due to closed access to adoption records in Connecticut, not only are my husband and sister in law unable to have the tools to find the medical history of their biological families, our daughter is prohibited from having the medical history of the biological family of her father. She only has the medical history of my biological family and is placed at an increased risk for diseases than run in biological families including breast and ovarian cancer that we do not know about and proactive action could be taken. My daughter is not half a person. She is a whole person and deserves her whole medical history, not just mine.

This is a human rights issue that not only affects my husband and sister in law, it effects our daughter and generations going forward. The government should not interfere with an adult person who was born and adopted in Connecticut from obtaining their original birth certificate and/or the tools to obtain the medical history of their biological families. It hurts all of us including our daughter.

Thank you your consideration of Bill 5144.

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