

February 16, 2014

H.B. No.5144
AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES
AND PARENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION
FOR ADOPTED PERSONS

Submitted by

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I support H.B. No. 5144 because I am a birth mother who had to place her child for adoption in 1961. This was not done out of free choice but rather out of desperation because I was pregnant and unmarried, a situation that was unacceptable to our society and to my family because of the shame and disgrace it would bring to them. The suggestion by the authoritative persons who arranged the adoption that I should go on with my life and in time I would forget was unconscionable. It was not true. I never forgot.

After 40 years I searched for and found my son. I asked him for forgiveness for what I had done to him, for what the society had done to us. It is 12 years later and we have a wonderful relationship. It was important to me and to him that he know his heritage, that he know his roots, that he meet his biological family and that he know his medical history. Heritage which includes medical history is a fact that the rest of us take for granted, because it is natural. The facts of our heritage should be available to all of us, no one group should be discriminated against because it is natural.

I support H.B. No. 5144 because every person has a right to know their heritage. Not only is it a civil right, but also it is the first right of the law of nature. Please help us to do the right thing.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane M. Hook