

Eliza Wolcott Brown

To Public Health Committee Co-Chairs Representative Terri 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 a 42 year old adoptee living in Wilton CT. I was born in Hartford and 1971 and adopted at just a few weeks old.

I now have a family of my own and would love more background medical information and want to know where I came from , who I look like. Having a 7 year old daughter who looks just like me has made me even more curious about my birth family, what they look like, their interests and what genetically has shaped me.

I have thought so much about this over the years and know this is the right time for me to meet my birth mother- but I am at the mercy of the adoption agency in my search and after 8 months(when I've paid over \$600) they have mailed a few letters to find her to no avail. My hands are tied and it is heartbreaking for me. But I've had a wonderful life with my adoptive parents who are very supportive of my search.

In this day and age it is time for adult adoptees to know where they came from and have contact with their birth mother if that is what is meant to be . 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,
Eliza Wolcott Brown
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