

Emily Anna Perow

Raised Bill 5144, An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adopted Persons

Testimony for Public Hearing

To Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Slossberg, Representative Miller and distinguished Public Health Committee members:

My name is Emily Anna Perow and I have been a resident of Middletown, Connecticut for 39 years. I want to thank you for this opportunity to address Raised Bill 5144, An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adopted Persons. I urge you to pass this important legislation.

I was adopted in 1973 from Catholic Charities to a loving big family. I am the adoptee that people are worried about. I am the one whose birth mother believed she could keep my birth a secret, and who made a decision to hide this information from our mutual blood relatives. Since 1991 I have known the identity of my birth mother and her family. Out of respect for them I will not, and do not, divulge her name or her secret. Unfortunately, her secret is me. I want to reassure all of you that I am not the nightmare that people believe this bill would bring. I am a compassionate, smart and tax paying adult who has been part of the great change I see in our world. Through intermediary contact I have respected and am sensitive to the wishes of my birth mother for anonymity.

I am aware that my search has caused her some discomfort and disrupted in her life. I have always apologized for that but I will not apologize any longer. For me not knowing my name at birth or the story (good or bad) behind the name, and not having pertinent detailed health information, has caused me discomfort, tears, pain and lots of expensive extra blood work, tests and major surgery at 27. Because of the changing healthcare system, and having to change doctors often because they are suddenly not in your network, I have had to repeat over and over again that I am adopted and I do not know my health history. Sometimes I feel like the main character in the movie Groundhog Day, repeating the same miserable day over and over again.

Please, I urge you to pass this bill.

Respectfully Submitted

Emily Anna Perow
11 Yellow Orange Circle
Middletown, CT. 06457