

2/27/14

TO: Representative Terri Gerratana, Representative Susan Johnson, Members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Gary Osbrey

RE: Raised Bill 5144, An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adoptive Persons.

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 adult adoptee born in the state of Rhode Island in 1961. As you know, Rhode Island released original birth certificates to adult adoptees in July of 2012. I was among the first 4 people to receive my OBC from Governor Lincoln Chafee.

I conducted a search with a goal of protecting my birthmother in the event I was a secret to her family.

I surreptitiously reached out to her and she responded. Although I was a secret to her family, she welcomed me into her life and we have enjoyed daily communication since July of 2012 in addition to 5 face to face visits. She has carefully reviewed family health history with me and for the first time in my life, at age 50, I was able to fill out a health history with my physician during my annual physical.

Not every adult adoptee will pursue their OBC. Of those who do, not everyone will pursue a reunion. Of those who do pursue a reunion, there is a large menu of possible outcomes, all of which are personal matters between two adults which should not be regulated by the state of CT. Marriage certificates are issued every day in the state of CT and it is statistically proven that every marriage does not have a happy ending. Yet, the state of CT continues to issue marriage certificates and has no plan to cease the practice. Why, then, would the state of CT try to regulate possible outcomes from adult adoptees who pursue their original birth certificates?

It is important to note that up until 1975, adult adoptees had this right in the state of CT. Then, inexplicably, it was taken away.

Please restore this basic human right. 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,

Gary Osbrey

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