

Grace Flynn Wollert 5144

To the Public Health Committee Co-Chairs Senator Terry Gerrantana and Representative Susan Johnson and the members do the Public Health Committee,

I am writing in support of Raised Bill 5144, which, if passed would allow adult adoptees access to their original north records and also give access to parental health records.

I am a 52 year old woman who was adopted as an infant in October of 1961, through the Catholic Family Services, in Hartford CT.

I understand the great shame that unwed mothers at that time felt. I have read the books, seen the movies, conversed with other adoptees.

Is their (what i perceive to be over rated) " shame" more important than my health care, or more importantly to me, that of my biological children? My children currently have knowledge of only one half of their medical history. We live in a society with great emphasis placed on " fairness" - I ask you, how is this "fair"?

My family is paying the price for something completely out of our control, and possibly, so might the State of CT, because, if "fairness" isn't important to you, how about the cost of medical care? All of us know that prevention is critical to long term health. Why should my children, or I that matter, be denied the ability to provide self care?

It is much more cost effective to prevent as much disease and illness as possible, and knowing ones family history gives one a GIANT head start.

Are you aware that most insurance companies do not cover many tests for adult adoptees simply because we do not have any medical history? Can you even begin to fathom the implications of this? What if this was you? or your spouse? Or one of your children? or your parent? or your best friend?

Although I am somewhat relieved not not fill out pages of questions at any and all Drs offices I do visit, it is quite apparent to me that Iam majorly disadvantaged because of this.

I would like you to know that that I had a lovely childhood. I am not looking replace my family or parents with my "real" parents. My real parents were in the trenches with me, taking me to games, helping me with science projects, teaching me the golden rule....to treat those as you would like to be treated yourself.

I am now asking you to do the same, follow the golden rule.

Thank you for,your attention,

Grace Flynn Wollert

Gfwollert@ comcast.net