

Jennifer Johnston

To Public Health Committee Co-Chairs Senator Terry 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 an adoptee. I was reunited with my birth family 5 months ago. Both of my parents were relieved and excited that I found them. I was able to let them know that I have Crohn's disease which can be hereditary. It is possible that my biological niece may be suffering from the painful and potentially life threatening disease as well but they had no other medical history to use when talking to doctors. Now my birth sister is taking her daughter back to the doctor to discuss her symptoms with this new information.

My search for my birth family was arduous and expensive but I would do it many times over for the peace and healing that my reunion has brought me, my birth parents and their families.

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,

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