

Joanne Mutchek HB5144

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 what is called a “sudden sibling”. In 1966, my parents relinquished my sister for adoption when she was born before they were married and still college students. I never knew of her existence until 1997, when my sister began a search for her birth mother, and found two married birth parents, and two full sisters. Having our family reunited has been immeasurably joyful and healing. My representative, Bill Aman, commented that adoption is a complicated and emotional issue in his response to me on this subject. He is absolutely right – but it is important to me that you know that everyone deserves to know where they came from. No one can have too much family. My sister’s adoptive parents and sister are lovely people who we see occasionally at family parties. I now have a sister, brother-in-law, and two nephews that we see several times a year, and with whom we have much in common. Adoptees do not choose to be adopted, but should have the choice to seek their birth families if they wish as adults.

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,  
Joanne Mutchek  
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