

Karen Ramsey Waggoner HB 5144

Adult adoptees are the only people forbidden to see their original birth certificates, to have access to their ethnicity, genetic heritage and identity. As a birthmother/first mother/natural mother, whatever you want to call me, I oppose this idea of keeping their past from them. It has been said that the records were sealed in 1975 to "protect" women who surrendered their children to adoption, that we were promised anonymity. Horse feathers! I was promised a lot of things but never anonymity. And, having surrendered in 1966, that would have been impossible to promise to anyone.

Adoptees have family medical histories that are outdated, have no idea of their ethnicity, and both have been shown to be important to have. Allow them the right to contact family members to update records, to reconnect with their biological families.

Pass this legislation now, joining other states in openness.

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