

Mary B. Romeo  
HB 5144

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 ADULT ( 68 Yrs old) adoptee. I strongly believe that ALL adult adoptees should at some point ( AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE) have access to their original birth certificates and any/all medical information. I know HB5144 would allow for this and be both retroactive and prospective .I think that if you were in my shoes, not knowing your birth origin, you might be more sympathetic to this cause. It has been difficult to go to a doctor and not know family medical background and have to make one for yourself as you go along. Added testing is done because your doctor will be liable for mistakes - you might be told everything is fine and all along you may have the family history that could bring medical problems down the road . We would have been prepared and taken preventive steps all along. I know I worried tremendously with each of my three pregnancies..hoping for a healthy child and not wanting to risk amniocentesis. God was with me - all three of my children were born healthy, but the mental strain was very heavy. It was awkward to have people ask me " oh, and what nationality are you ?" With downcast eyes the mumbled response was always "I am adopted and don't know?" - like I was to be pitied. It wasn't until in late 20's I started to investigate my background and did get minimal information from Catholic Charities that I was of Hungarian descent. One adoptive parent (father) was deceased and I was told that since my adoptive mother was still living, I should approach her. That was not the greatest advice, since that would only lead to my being "ungrateful" for that all had been done for me - all the years of growing up- and where I might have landed in life had it not been for their kindnesses. Now here I am in my late sixties ( 68 ) and my adoptive mother has passed away and I am still not able to gain access my records. Why ? I think it is time to "give up" this information to me. What good does it do for keeping it in a vault of secrecy? I think that I should have access to this information before I die. I have an adoptive brother (64 yr) and sister (60 yr) and I have informed them of my unrest and they are supportive of my getting any information that I can..Do I have birth siblings.? Wouldn't it be great to know? Until any of you walk in "adoptee" shoes I guess you will never truly understand the "longing" we have for this most basic human information. I am sorry that I could not be with you all at this hearing but I want to THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your consideration, all your energies and research, but most of all your support of HB5144.

Sincerely,  
Mary B. Romeo  
P.O. Box 335  
Riverside, CT 06878  
[Hallie1031@aol.com](mailto:Hallie1031@aol.com)  
203-698-2569