

From: **Mary Solera** <msolera99@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Feb 26, 2014 at 10:53 AM

Subject: Raised Bill Number 5144

To: PCH.Testimony@cga.ct.gov

To Public Health Committee Co-Chairs : Representative Terri Guerratana and Representative Susan Johnson, and Members of the Public Health Committee;

I am writing to ask for your support for Raised Bill 5144, An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adopted Persons. I have a brother who is an adoptive parent in another state who has all of his daughters identifying information and health information, as well as ongoing ability to contact the birth parent. It has proven invaluable. As a parent, I know how important medical information is to children, no matter their age. Birth children have that automatic right to information and it should be no different for adopted persons.

I worked in child welfare for over 33 years. I removed children from birth families, did homestudies for prospective adoptive parents, placed children into adoption and conducted searches on behalf of adult adoptees for medical and identifying information. I have seen the "life" of adoption as it were. Connecticut's laws are antiquated when it comes to adoption.

People do better when they have information and can put their life in perspective. I have never met an adopted person who wanted anything other than to fill the empty space and find some missing piece of their life's puzzle, a term used over and over by adult adoptees. Give these people the same right as anyone else for information. It's time.

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 for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mary Solera
666 Route 81
Killingworth, Ct. 06419