

Penny Palmer

To All Parties Concerned,

I hereby beseech you to support Bill 5144 to restore the rights of adult adoptees to obtain their original birth certificates. I am a birth mother who relinquished a son, David Weaver, in January of 1968. At that time he **did** have the right to his birth certificate upon adulthood, but that right was taken away. I found David in 1990, I embraced his adoptive family into my own, I became very, very close to his adoptive mother until her death almost 6 years ago, David's children call me Grandma, and we've been very close now for a longer period than when I was without David. Doesn't it seem rather silly that he can't have his original birth certificate? It's as much a part of his identity as his "amended" one. I do feel his amended one is also an important part of who he is, and I'm grateful to Joyce and Dick Weaver for their loving care of my David. Joyce had also expressed her deep gratitude to me for the joy in her life which was David.

Most birth parent/adoptee reunions are very positive, and it is my belief that MOST birth mothers live with the hope that one day this relinquished child will show up on her door step. Yes, it is a fact that there are relatively few birth mothers who have been made to feel such shame that they're not open to being "found", but those mothers are still protected under this law. To feel that **all** birth parents need protection is quite naïve, and way behind the times.

I will be very happy to learn that Bill 5144 has been enacted into law. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Penny Palmer
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