

rusmer

From: "rusmer" <rusmer1142@comcast.net>
To: <www.PHC.Testimony@cga.ct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 1:10 PM
Subject: Raised Bill #5144 - Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates

Written Testimony:

I am writing to ask your support for **Raised Bill #5144 - An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adult Adopted Persons.**

I was employed for 38 yrs at DCF (now retired), with the majority of those years working in the FosterCare /Adoption Unit. For 20 of those years of service, I specialized in working with Adult Adopted Persons who wished to access information re: their birth families. Following my retirement, I also worked as a consultant in that field for five years with The Village for Families and Children.

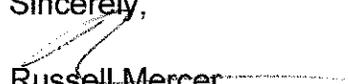
Over the years I worked with hundreds of adult adoptees seeking information. 95% of birth family members contacted agreed to have contact with the adult adopted person and to share information with them. In addition to acquiring family background information, access to medical information was crucial. However, medical information in agency files was as dated as the adult adopted person (at least 18 yrs) and of little value.

Access to birth family information is vital to all adoptees, for a true sense of their identity and especially for pertinent medical history. To continue to deny adult adoptees access to their birth family history is not only unhealthy but continues to treat them as second class citizens.

Prior to 1975, adoptees had the right to access this information. This bill is requesting that this right be reinstated.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,


Russell Mercer
10 Columbia St.
Hartford, CT 06106

2/20/2014