

Barbara Montgomery

Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,.

I cannot attend the public hearing on Friday, 28 February 2014 because I will be working in Manhattan. I am emailing my written testimony in support of Raised Bill 5144, An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adult Adopted Person.

I live in Norwalk, CT and am a registered voter. I am also a birthmother of a son born over 48 years ago. Connecticut adult adoptees had free access to their original birth certificates until 1975. I cannot understand why this right was taken from them in 1975, but it is obvious the decision was not sufficiently studied before the amendment was passed. Adult adoptees born after 1975 should have access to their original birth certificates and the medical history of their birthparents. It was extremely important my son be aware of diseases critical to his health, particularly a disease which killed his birth grandfather at the young age of 37 and nearly killed me when I was 42. Adult adoptees deserve to know their medical histories not only for themselves, but also the health of their children. Adult adoptees do not have the same genetic blood of their adoptive parents.

It is imperative the amendment that stripped Connecticut adult adoptees born after 1975 be restored so they can have free access to their original certificates. It is disrespectful to the dignity of adult adoptees born after 1975 to continue being denied access to their original birth certificates. Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and other states have restored access. It is time for Connecticut to do the same.

Please pass Raised Bill 5144.

Sincerely,
Barbara Montgomery
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