

From: pschibbe@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 9:28 PM
To: Sen. Gerratana, Terry
Cc: Reid, Terri; PHC Testimony
Subject: Support Letter for Raised House Bill 5144 - Adoptee Rights Legislation
Attachments: AAC SIGNED LTR OF SUP FOR HB5144.pdf

Dear Chairwoman Gerratana,

Attached is a letter in support of Raised House Bill 5144 from the American Adoption Congress.

<http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org/mission.php>

The American Adoption Congress is comprised of individuals, families and organizations committed to adoption reform. We represent those whose lives are touched by adoption or other loss of family continuity.

We promote honesty, openness and respect for family connections in adoption, foster care and assisted reproduction. We provide education for our members and professional communities about the lifelong process of adoption. We advocate legislation that will grant every individual access to information about his or her family and heritage.

Sincerely,
Paul Schibbelhute
Legislative Committee Chair
American Adoption Congress
15 Seminole Dr.
Nashua, NH 03063
pschibbe@aol.com
603-930-2091

Chairwoman Terry Gerratana
Room 3000,
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

February 28, 2014

Dear Honorable Senator Gerratana,
As the Legislative Chair of the 35-year-old American Adoption Congress (AAC), a national organization that represents adopted persons, birth parents and adoptive parents, I'd like to ask you and your fellow members of the Public Health Committee to support passage of Raised House Bill 5144. Raised House Bill 5144 will restore the human right for all adult adoptees born in Connecticut to receive a copy of their original birth certificates (OBC), upon request, removing the current requirement that they first obtain an order from a court allowing them to do so.

Since new laws have been passed in Alabama, Delaware, Illinois, Oregon, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island and Tennessee allowing adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates, over

31,000 adoptees have received their original birth certificates with no harm shown to anyone, including birth parents. These states join Kansas and Alaska where original birth certificates were always available.

The data reveals that if access has had any effect on adoptions and abortions, it has been to increase adoptions and decrease abortions. Please take the time to look at this data that is collected from the Health Departments of those states.

http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org/reform_materials.php

When New Hampshire (2004), Maine (2007) and Rhode Island (2011) passed legislation allowing all its adult adoptees to obtain an uncertified copy of their original birth certificates, an overwhelming majority of each state's legislators voted in favor of restoring the "human right" to its native born adult adoptees to obtain their OBC.

In New Hampshire, Maine or Rhode Island there have been no reports of any lawsuits, negative consequences or problematic behavior by adopted persons or damage to birth mother's lives as a result of the legislation that passed in these states.

Since the new law took effect in New Hampshire in 2004, over 1,600 birth certificates have been requested with no harm reported. In Oregon since 2000, over 11,000 adult adoptees have received their birth certificates, again with no ill effects.

Raised House Bill 5144 will restore the privilege to all adult adoptees born in Connecticut—to access their identifying information without restriction, thus granting them rights equal to those enjoyed by all other citizens of Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Schibbelhute
Legislative Committee Chairman
American Adoption Congress
603-930-2091

cc: Members of the Connecticut Public Health Committee



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Legislative Committee Chairman
American Adoption Congress
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cc: Members of the Connecticut Public Health Committee

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