

Susan L. Myers

To Public Health Committee Co-Chairs Rep. Terri Gerratana and Rep. Susan Johnson, and members of PH Committee:

I am writing to ask for your support of Raised Bill 5144, An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adoptive Persons. This bill re-establishes the right held until 1975 of every adopted citizen in CT to obtain a copy of their original true birth certificate. This right existed in our state for more than 100 years before it was curtailed in 1975. Research indicates that 85% of CT residents support a law allowing adults to obtain copies of their OBC naming their birth parents. This does not automatically lead to searching or contacting birth family, but in cases where it does, research also demonstrates that 95% of birth mothers consent to such contact. Adoption professionals and experts agree that it is in the best interests of the child, as well as the genetic and adoptive parents, to preserve true and accurate information about the child's biological identity to be available when that child reaches the age of majority. There is truly no valid reason for the state to conceal information belonging to an adult citizen, from that citizen.

As an adoptive parent of two young people and an adoption social worker for almost 20 years, I strongly believe that ALL adopted adults should have access to their original birth certificates and that the bill be both retroactive and prospective.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Myers
80 Ardmore Road,
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860)202-5770