

Public Hearing Testimony S.B. No. 1067
Monday March 23, 2015
Judiciary Committee
Rm 2D

Mr. Chairman:

My testimony today is regarding SB 1067: AN ACT CONCERNING A BIOLOGICAL PARENT'S ACCESS TO CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN CASES INVOLVING VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

I support this important bill for one simple reason; all of us deserve the support of the law to access documents from a legal proceeding that we were a party to.

This is standard operating procedure in any other context and should not be discouraged, denied or otherwise obstructed simply because it involves adoption.

The experience of surrendering a baby for adoption is overlain with subserviency and the utter loss of personal power for us mothers. We should not be subjected to the scrutiny of any individual or agency playing the arbiter of access. Please afford us the protection of the law to obtain the written instrument that so impacted our lives. I ask you to support SB 1067. It's that simple.

I would also like to recap for the committee that a large part of the debate in 2014 over giving adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates was the belief that birthmothers were promised anonymity. I did obtain a copy of the petition to terminate my own parental rights related to the newborn I surrendered for adoption in 1975. I want to assure the committee that nowhere is there mention, direct or inferred, that my identity would remain a secret from my child.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 1067

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