

Haggerty, Katie

From: Pam Mcrae <pammcrae@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:51 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: SB 1067

I am a natural mother who lost a son to adoption in 1968. Fortunately, we have been reunited for just over three years since I was able to find him--with no help from any government agency. That's why I'm writing today to urge you to pass SB 1067, granting natural parents access to any and all documents connected with the adoption of their children.

When I signed the papers that would presumably separate me from my son forever, I was barely 22 and in emotional shock. Today, I have no idea what I signed and have no recollection of ever reading the documents or having them explained to me. I was doing what I thought I had to do, not what I wanted to do. It is unconscionable to enforce adoption secrecy when no one is at risk of physical harm. Adoption secrecy causes lasting harm not only to the adoptee and the natural parents but to their descendants who will never be able to reconstruct an accurate family tree.

The arguments are many for full disclosure and openness, but the most compelling from a legal standpoint is undoubtedly the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. Laws closing adoptions were ill-conceived when Georgia Tann and Herbert Lehman instituted them, and correcting those mistakes is long overdue. Natural mothers were not promised anonymity; adoptive parents were promised security. Once an adoptee is an adult the question of parental security is moot. Adoptees and natural parents have a right to be treated fairly under the law, not stripped of fundamental personal information. I hope you will support SB 1067. It's time for justice, even if it's too late for mercy.

Pam McRae

*Mom to David, 47 (found by me 1/12); Tanner, 44; Dabbs, 41 (adopted from Vietnam '74); Saskia, 38
Grandmommy to Jonas, 10, and Atticus, 5*