

## Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

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**From:** joswanson@jamadots.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2015 12:10 AM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** PLEASE SUPPORT SENATE BILL 1067

To the Judiciary Committee:

I am a Michigan birth mother who surrendered my daughter to adoption in 1960. At that time, I was not given a copy of the document I signed, and I came to learn that it was not common practice back then to give mothers copies of their surrenders. I've long wondered why we weren't automatically provided copies of these legal documents we signed. I still find it difficult to imagine why, since in all other legal matters a signor is given a copy of the document bearing his/her signature.

Through the years, I felt an intense need to see and read the relinquishment I had signed, since my emotional state at the time I appeared before the judge to sign away my rights was all over the map. I honestly don't remember whether I read that document in its entirety before signing it. I only knew it was expected of me, so I signed.

About twenty years later, I wrote to the court where my daughter's adoption was finalized and requested a copy of my signed relinquishment. I was sent a copy for only a small fee. So I assumed that mothers in other states were granted the same request, since there was nothing on those documents that revealed the identities of the adoptive parents or the child.

I recently learned that Connecticut doesn't automatically release copies to birth mothers on request, but that there is a bill before the Senate right now that would grant this right to mothers. Since having my copy has meant so much to me, I urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill 1067 so that Connecticut birth mothers may obtain copies of their signed relinquishments. For many mothers, having documentation of their surrender provides validation of their experience and plays an essential part in their healing.

I thank you for taking the time to read my request and again urge your support for Senate Bill 1067.

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