

My name is Kathy Flaherty and I'm a registered voter in Newington. I am submitting this very brief statement in opposition to HB 5300 because a study of "the feasibility of establishing an adoption registry for which registration is optional" is completely unnecessary. These optional registries already exist. From personal experience as an adult adoptee, they are useless. I have been registered with Catholic Charities for decades and have learned nothing about my family health history - or anything else - as a result. The committee should reject this bill.

Instead, I would urge the members of this committee to support HB 5408 when it comes up for a vote of the floor. That bill would allow other adult adoptees like me - born between 1944 and 1983 whose birth parents are alive - access to our original birth certificates.

Thank you.

Kathy Flaherty
Newington, CT