



## State of Connecticut

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AGING COMMITTEE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Public Health Committee  
March 20, 2017

### **Testimony in Support of H.B. 5300 An Act Requiring A Study Of Optional Admission Into An Adoption Registry**

Co-Chairs Steinberg, Gerratana, and Somers; Vice Chairs Kennedy, Logan, and Luxenberg; Ranking Member Betts; and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

Today I voice my support for H.B. 5300. I give this testimony for the thousands of women who remain silent concerning open access to original birth certificates. The women have no voice and no lobbyist reaching out to you. These are the biological mothers who made an incredibly brave decision to bring their babies to term and were promised that they would be protected. I understand the feelings of so many adoptees to connect with their biological parents and get medical family histories. This legislation would start to address this issue.

Right now nine states offer unrestricted access and twenty two states have completely sealed adoption records. All other states including Connecticut offer access with restrictions. This legislation would establish an active registry that both the adoptee and the biological parents would have access to. This registry would consider both sides in this potentially life changing action. Many of the women that will be impacted by this legislation are now 60-80 years old. They are senior citizens and elderly who made a very tough decision and who have no idea we are debating this legislation.

Today there are many ways to connect with biological family but the one thing they all provide for is that both parties equally are involved. Programs like Ancestry.com and other DNA test have opened up modern ways to connect. I have followed the lead of many other states and have proposed that Connecticut study the feasibility of establishing a Registry, which will enable both children and parents to connect with each other. Several states are doing this and I hope Connecticut will follow suit. Thank you for your consideration. Enclosed please find a graph illustrating the status of each state's adoption registry.

Noreen Kokoruda  
State Representative  
101<sup>st</sup> district

STATE	STATUS	STATE	STATUS
Alabama	Unrestricted Access	Montana	Partial with Restrictions
Alaska	Unrestricted Access	Nebraska	Partial with Restrictions
Arizona	Sealed	Nevada	Sealed
Arkansas	Access with Restrictions (2018)	New Hampshire	Unrestricted Access
California	Sealed	New Jersey	Access with Restrictions
Colorado	Unrestricted Access	New Mexico	Sealed
Connecticut	Partial Access	New York	Sealed
Delaware	Access with Restrictions	North Carolina	Sealed
<i>District of Columbia (D.C.)</i>	Sealed	North Dakota	Sealed
Florida	Sealed	Ohio	Access with Restrictions
Georgia	Sealed	Oklahoma	Partial with Restrictions
Hawaii	Unrestricted Access	Oregon	Unrestricted Access
Idaho	Sealed	Pennsylvania	Access with Restrictions
Illinois	Access with Restrictions	Rhode Island	Unrestricted Access
Indiana	Access with Restrictions	South Carolina	Sealed
Iowa	Sealed	South Dakota	Sealed
Kansas	Unrestricted Access	Tennessee	Access with Restrictions
Kentucky	Sealed	Texas	Sealed
Louisiana	Sealed	Utah	Sealed
Maine	Unrestricted Access	Vermont	Partial with Restrictions
Maryland	Partial with Restrictions	Virginia	Sealed
Massachusetts	Partial Access	Washington	Access with Restrictions
Michigan	Partial with Restrictions	West Virginia	Sealed
Minnesota	Partial with Restrictions	Wisconsin	Access with Restrictions
Mississippi	Sealed	Wyoming	Sealed
Missouri	Partial Access / Access with Restrictions (2018)		