

Dear Distinguished Members of the Connecticut General Assembly,

I am writing to **oppose** HB 5300, An Act Requiring A Study Of Optional Admission Into An Adoption Registry because there is already an adoption registry in effect in Connecticut and there has been for over 30 years. See C.G.S. Sec. 45a-755 which requires all child placing agencies to keep a registry.

Furthermore, the registry has failed to protect adoptees' and their children's health. It is not an effective alternative to giving adult adoptees unfettered access to their original birth certificates.

I was adopted and registered for a registry when I was 19 years old. By then, my birth mother had been dead for 6 years. It took me another 10 years to discover the cause of her death was a malignant brain tumor. She had presented at a doctor's office with 'just a migraine' only three weeks prior to her death. She was only 47 years old when she died. I have a right to this information and I had a right to it far before I was able to register in a registry for which my dead mother was never going to register in.

Had I had access to my original birth certificate, I would have discovered brain cancer and multiple other family related diseases at 19 years old instead of 30 years old. The adoption registry failed me. A bill that restores adoptees' access to their original birth certificates which includes a contact preference form for birth parents will be far more effective and less costly for the state than this bill.

To sum up, please **do not support HB 5300** because:

- 1) An adoption registry already exists pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 45a-755
- 2) The adoption registry has failed to protect adoptees' health
- 3) Dead people don't register in registries

For all these reasons, **please oppose** HB 5300, An Act Requiring A Study Of Optional Admission Into An Adoption Registry.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Desiree Stephens

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