

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing to ask for your support in passing S.B. 972. As an adult adoptee in Connecticut, I believe I have the right to access my original birth certificate. I don't think people who are not adopted realize the disadvantage of not knowing who your birth parents are and what their medical history is. I was just at my doctor's office for an annual physical. I was faced, once again, with the section asking for medical history of my parents. "Not known" is my standard answer and has been for 59 years. Adoptees are faced with this problem daily. 30 years ago, when I had my first child, I realized the essential need for my medical history and background of my birth parents. I got my non-identifying information from Catholic Family Services. I was adopted at birth in 1959. Nothing on the original paperwork as far as medical history was filled out. Nothing. As we age, the need to know what kind of medical issues we need to be aware of grows, and yet, we are denied this basic right.

This issue is not only my problem, but my children's as well. They know their paternal side. Both their paternal grandparents died from cancer. What did mine die from? I have no information to offer them--a blank slate that needs to be filled in! One of my hopes, as my children grow and start their own families, is to be able to fill in that blank slate. With the onset of new and cutting edge medical breakthroughs in diagnostics and prevention-the need to know medical history is invaluable-possibly life-saving.

I never felt the need to "fill a hole" in my life because I am adopted. I thank God every day that I was, because I was blessed with wonderful parents and a wonderful life. I am also blessed to have grown up with my twin sister. I am not looking to find a new family or disrupt another family who may or may not even be aware of our existence. I am just asking for a most basic right--to know my medical history.

I have done DNA testing on all the major sites: Ancestry, 23andme, FTDNA. After 8 years, this has yielded no grand break through, no close match who could help me solve this mystery. And so I wait. It was fun learning that I am 90 percent IrelandScotland/Wales--after having grown up as a Polish girl. But that still brings me no closer to filling in that blank slate of medical history.

In closing, I humbly ask for your support to pass S.B. 972 THIS YEAR and grant those of us whose adoptions were finalized after 1983, the right to our original birth certificate.

Jane Barth