

Dear P&D Committee,

I am writing in support of S.B 972: The 2019 Adoptee Rights Bill.

I am an adoptee born in 1982. While I am now a Connecticut resident, I was born and adopted in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania closed their records to adoptees some time in the 80s. I am forever grateful that my adoptive mother was aware that the law was changing and requested my original birth certificate before the records closed. I can not imagine being barred from knowing the names of my biological parents. The idea that I could be forbidden from seeing my own birth certificate, a foundational document that would be within the reach of any employee of the Department of Health but forever closed from myself and my children is maddening.

Fortunately for other Pennsylvanian residents in my situation, Pennsylvania opened their records in 2017. In the first week, they received 1100 requests for original birth certificates. Adoptees are hungry to know who they are. Our children have the right to know their heritage. It is not up to the state to hide this vital information from ourselves and our children.

I write this in support of Connecticut adoptees whose records are hidden due to an arbitrary deadline of October 1, 1983. I ask you to please pass SB 972 and end discrimination of adoptees based on their birth year, and open records for all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristin Brown

Madison, CT