

## **Support for S.B. 972**

October 1, 1983 is an important date. Please support SB 972 to allow adult adoptees born before that date access to their original birth certificates. The information on original birth certificates may provide assistance to adoptees to find birth family - either their birth parents or extended birth family - to assist in obtaining medical and mental health information about their biological parents and their extended family members.

As the parent of three children adopted prior to 1983, I know the importance of this information. One of our children had a bleeding disorder. We found that out when she was 13 months old and got a small paper cut on her finger. This paper cut would not stop bleeding. We were given no information about any such issue with her birth parents from the adoption agency. They had nothing in their records regarding the physical or mental health issues her birth parents may have had. Blood tests revealed our daughter had Hemophilia B and was a carrier of that blood disorder. The welfare, care and safety of our daughter became paramount upon this diagnosis. When our daughter was sixteen years old, we were finally able to obtain her birth information because we found her maternal grandmother who put us in touch with her birth mother. The birth mother had no idea the birth father of her child had Hemophilia B. She had lied to the adoption agency about who the birth father was because he was a married man with four children and she did not want to get him into trouble. She made up a fake birth father and gave false information to the adoption agency.

We should have been able to find out this important medical background at the time of adoption and if not at that time, then upon contacting the real birth father. This birth mother contacted the actual birth father upon learning that our daughter had Hemophilia B and he admitted he had Hemophilia B and that two of his other four children did as well. I hope this one example can help you better understand why passing SB 972 is so vital to so many in your beautiful state.

In my professional role, I am the Executive Director of the National Foster Parent Association. As you know a majority of children and youth in foster care are adopted by their foster parents. This is an important topic to many of our members and the National Foster Parent wholeheartedly supports passage of this legislation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

### **Irene Clements**

Executive Director, National Foster Parent Association

Board of Directors, Texas Foster Family Association

Board Member, Project Foster Care

Board Member, SAFE Coalition for Human Rights

Advisory Board Member, NCTSN

Chair, EveryChild, Inc. Texas, Board of Directors

Board Member, Creating A Family

Supreme Court of Texas Judicial Commission on Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Council

Foster Care Consultant

512-775-9781

[irenelements17@gmail.com](mailto:irenelements17@gmail.com)

[iclements@nfpaonline.org](mailto:iclements@nfpaonline.org)

[www.NFPAonline.org](http://www.NFPAonline.org)