

Support for S.B. 972

To: the members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Rochelle Dewell

Date: 14 March 2019

Once again, I am submitting a plea to open Connecticut's adoption records; I have written about this before, and you are free to access my previous letters.

Going through the legal process for any information has been daunting, can be quite expensive, and delays of a year or more are to be expected, we are told. Using DTC DNA testing is a shortcut of sorts, but far from the 'sure thing' the media would have us believe.

After a few years of my own testing and hoping, I did find a few decently close cousins, most recently last week. Two of them seem to know nothing, one stopped writing abruptly (telling me to just 'sit back and wait for it to happen'); the other, closer cousin never wrote back. I do not know if I offended her; in seeking my own story, I may have caused her pain. Whatever the reasons they have not helped me, it feels like a rejection. My mother had always told me not to discuss my adoption, but that made me feel like a second class citizen, then and now. Someone chose to give me life, chose to give me up to a new family, and I have had a good life. My adoptive family is gone now — I am in my seventies — and I have a son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

But that 'other' part of me wants to know my bio family name — who they were, their origins. And, did my mother tell her family about me? About her struggle? I shall probably never know. But at least I can say I tried my best. Please do the same for me and others like me. Thank you for hearing me.

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