

Mary-Beth Dobmeier, LCSW  
155 Prospect St.  
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March 8, 2019

Re : Senate Bill 972

Dear Legislatures,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 972. The purpose of the bill is to allow all adult adoptees born in the state of CT to have access to their original birth certificates. I believe that access to one's birth certificate is a basic right that all people should have, regardless of the circumstances of their birth. People who were raised in the family they were born into, have always had the ability to obtain their birth certificates. However, adult adoptees have not always been afforded this right. As of now, those adoptees born after 1983 can obtain their original birth certificates from the Department of Public Health. Thus, it depends on when an adoptee was born, which is out of the control of the adoptee.

I was an adoption social worker for over 10 years. I worked with many adult adoptees in my role as a confidential intermediary. Adult adoptees seeking to reunite with their birth parents had to go through the agency and pay a fee. Having done the searching myself, I understand the need for a fee as searching for a person often took many hours and involved numerous phone calls, letters and interaction with a variety of people and agencies. I never knew if the other party would be receptive to contact until I approached them. This was very difficult for the adoptee, having to wait for the party to be located (which at times went on for months or years) and then to be told that the person does not want any contact. It was extremely frustrating for clients to pay a fee, wait for the party to be located and wait for a response, via the social worker. While some clients liked having the support of a social worker, some did not. Many clients would have preferred to search on their own.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 792.

Respectfully,

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