

To All Who May Be Concerned,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 972 that would allow adopted adults access to their original birth records. Giving up my daughter for adoption was the saddest moment of my life, but, like all women who surrender their children, I did it because I believed she would have a better life than I could provide at that time.

Denying adopted people the right to know their origins imposes a terrible burden on them and undoes much of the good that we hoped adoption would do for them. It turns them into second-class citizens. We now know that close to 100% of birth mothers are in favor of open records. No document has ever been produced that promised them that their identities would remain secret from their children forever. Indeed, in many cases, the adoptive parents were provided identifying information about the birth mother at the time of the adoption.

Most birth mothers believe, as I do, that access to one's original birth certificate should be a human right. I urge you to support the Connecticut legislation, Senate Bill 972, and make adopted people first-class citizens of your state.

Sincerely,

Susanna Epp