

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

Dear Representatives,

I have been a birthmother since I relinquished my parental rights when my daughter was born over six years ago. Unlike most birthmothers from previous generations, I was not forced to surrender my child and agreed to an open adoption. However, like all birthmothers I have met, I experience the same grief and loss of that traumatic event and the broken promises. I was promised regular updates and even visitations with my daughter as she would grow up. None of that has been true as I now only receive an email once a year. There is a strong likelihood that I will eventually receive nothing at all in the near future for no reason other than the adoptive parents were told that it was normal for contact to stop after a couple of years. Any discussion of privacy in the adoption was for the adoptive parent's sake, not mine. I want nothing more than to know my daughter and for her to know me.

I stand in support of S.B. 972 which would give adoptees, eighteen or older, the right to their original birth certificates. It is a civil right that everyone deserves to have.

Please support this bill and thank you for listening.

Amanda Eshelman  
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