

J A N L U C K I N G H A M F A B L E

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March 11, 2019

Re: Senate Bill 972

To Whom It May Concern,

Please support and pass S.B. 972. I strongly believe that ALL adult adoptees should have access to their original birth certificates, and the bill should be both retroactive and prospective.

I am a birth mother who gave up my child in San Francisco in 1969. It was a private adoption and, although I had asked not to be told the name of the adopting parents, it was at the top of the papers I signed surrendering my son. That name was burned into my memory. Seventeen years later, when I had health issues that I thought should be shared with the adoptive parents, I had a name and place to begin my search. It took some time, but I'm one of the fortunate ones. I had a name. Once I knew where he was and that he was okay and had shared the health information, I left it up to him to contact me. Fifteen years ago, when he was 35 years old, he did. Since then we have maintained a loving connection and he has made me part of his family. In fact, I attended the wedding of my only grandchild just a year ago this month.

I also happen to be a psychotherapist who has been practicing for more than 30 years. I have worked with adoptees and adoptive and birth parents, alike. The overriding issues have been not knowing one's roots for adoptees, grief, guilt and great loss and the unknown for the birth parent, and legal barriers to how to help one's child in the case of adoptive parents.

Once again, I ask that you support and pass S.B. 972.

Jan Luckingham Fable
Fairfield, CT