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From: **Patricia Flanagan** <pflanagan@billericak12.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 12, 2019 at 2:51 PM

Subject: Senate Bill 972 Granting all Adoptees access to their original birth certificates

To: <pdtestimony@cga.ct.gov>

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to you as a birthmother who has been in reunion for 5 years and I can tell you that it was the happiest day of my life hands down!

I lost my beautiful daughter to adoption in April of 1978.

I am in full support of SB 972 granting Adoptees access to their original birth certificates. This bill would finally right the wrong that was done to over a million women and their babies during what has been referred to as the "Baby Scoop Era" of adoption.

I am the *REAL* voice of the "silent women" Noreen Kokoruda refers to in her letter to you opposing this bill and we will NOT be silenced any longer, nor will we let Noreen or anyone else who doesn't live our experience speak for us!! Contrary to what Noreen writes about birthmothers not wanting to be found, research shows that the *vast majority* of birthmothers want nothing more than to hear from their long lost children. They have spent their lives mourning the loss of their children. Their loss was inflicted on them by the *powers that be* at the time who *shamed* them into relinquishment affording them no family or financial support ultimately giving them no other option, but adoption. This is not just my personal view, but is supported in the book "The Girls Who Went Away" by Anne Fessler.

It's high time to be honest about the *real* reason access to original birth certificates was imposed...It was imposed to protect the adoptive parents from the potential future intrusion of the birth mother, It's a travesty to say that the birthmothers wanted to be protected from their children. If that were the case I can assure you that those mothers were in the minority!

I am the voice of the majority of women who lost their children to adoption prior to October 1, 1983 and I urge you today to do the right thing by Adoptees and their natural mothers and vote to *restore their right to access* to their original birth certificates. It's a fundamental human right to know who you are and where you came from. Without this information Adoptees are never able to feel whole.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further help in this conversation.

Thank you,

Patricia Hart-Flanagan  
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