

Birthmother support for S.B. 972

Dear Representatives:

I write to you as a birthmother who finally discovered my son thirty-five years after I'd lost him to adoption in 1964.

Thankfully, he and I now enjoy a relationship, and I am blessed to be grandmother to my two beautiful granddaughters. How I wish records had been opened, and we might not have lost so many years!

When I gave him up, I was never promised "privacy" or "confidentiality". Instead, I was *denied* the information I desperately wanted - his new name, his family, his location, and any relationship with him. In that era, secrecy - not privacy - was demanded. That secrecy kept me in shame for decades.

It is no benefit to others like me to deny our adult children the rights to see our names at last. Surely they deserve that fundamental civil right, even if a tiny fraction of birthmothers may not desire reconnection with them. I do not believe ANY parent has a right to deny their child knowledge of their heritage, and I hope your state does not either.

Please support S.B. 972.

Linda Franklin

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