

Dear Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

What if you didn't know the first person that loved you? What if you didn't know where your parents were from? What if you didn't know your family's medical history? What if you didn't know your born religion? What if you didn't know where you got your smile, eyes, or height? What if you didn't know who was related to you? What if you were denied access to your own birth certificate?

You would feel like many adoptees, curious and caring, but also alienated by a system and state laws that always make you feel orphaned. For many, these questions must be answered and that is why I support the SB 972 with all my heart. This bill would allow all adult adoptees access to their true birth certificates. At a minimum, by knowing your birth name you can avoid possible incest and have some clue about your heritage. Some may choose to initiate a search and reunion.

I am fortunate that I was born in England, where birth records have been open since 1975. The greatest gift that my adoptive father gave to me was when he agreed to fly to England with me to get my birth records. What a caring, brave man he was, and the only father I ever knew. After obtaining my records I was able to find my birth mother with relative ease, she had never married. At first she did not want to meet, but unraveled an amazing love story. My birth mother had a life long affair with a married man and gave up all 6 of her children for adoption as they were born. Today, five of the six of us are enjoying a wonderful reunion and are still looking for one missing sister. In time, I was able to meet my birth mom and finally give her that reassuring hug that says, everything turned out ok and you did the right thing!

No law could or should have interfered with our developing relationship. As a pharmacist I am reminded every day about the importance of family medical history. As an officer in the US Army I hold truth and honesty as a core value, and as an adoptee, I know first hand the amazing emotional healing when a mother is reunited with her child. Why deprive so many CT born adoptees of this freedom? Health, honesty, and healing are all they desire. Please support the SB 972 and grant all adult adopted persons the same rights as every other citizen.

Yours truly,

MAJ Peter W. Franklin (Ret.) RPh
AdopteesWithoutLiberty.com (AWOL)