

## Support for S.B. 972

To the members of the Planning & Development Committee,

I am writing urging you to support Senate Bill 972 and restore equal access for all Connecticut adoptees.

I am the adult child of an adoptee, who was born and raised in Greenwich and Norwalk, CT. My mother simply desires to \*know\* her birth parents names, to hold her original birth certificate in her hand, and to know a little piece of her that has been unknown to her for **73 years**.

The current law does not provide equitable treatment under the law. It is also especially onerous for older adoptees (who are born near 1944) to jump through hoops to get their birth certificates, knowing that their birth parents are deceased, but having no formal way to verify it.

What is even more troubling is that these same adoptees were granted unfettered access to these records until 1975 - in the age of DNA testing and the Internet, the law as written today simply makes no sense in our modern era, and prevents a group of people from accessing their records solely based on age - illegal any way you read it.

My mother is already aware of her distant family and cousins from DNA testing - she knows her birth parents are long deceased - what she desires is to simply complete her puzzle by knowing their names so she can feel a sense of wholeness that has been missing her entire life.

Imagine for a moment you never knew your birth parents names - the time you were born, or where - imagine that you had to think about those things - it seems incredulous, doesn't it? Please pass this bill and restore access to all adoptees. It is long overdue.

Please give adults the choice to make their own decisions about access to their records. I promise they can handle it.

Sincerely,

Alexis Gardner

Daughter of Anne Bishop, Greenwich/Norwalk, CT