

Support for S.B. 972

To: Members of the Planning and Development Committee.

I am writing to ask your support for S.B. 972 , An Act Concerning access to Original Birth Records by Adult Adopted Persons.

I am an adult adoptee, the sister of an adult adoptee, and step mother to an adult adopted son. Although I was born in New York State my situation is like those born in CT who do not have access to their original birth records. New York has sealed birth records for all those adopted.

I did not know that I was adopted until I was 34 years old and pregnant with my son. Both my brother and I had been adopted in New York shortly after our births by my parents who were CT residents. As was the practice by some adopting parents at the time (late 40's) our adoption was not shared with us until we accidentally discovered it. In my case by asking the brother and sister of my adoptive Mom about our family history. My uncle realized that I had never been told about my adoption. I was especially interested because I wanted to be able to share my history with my yet unborn children and they, in turn, could pass along information to future generations.

Unsuccessful in learning anything about my birth parents, three years ago I did a DNA search with Ancestry.com. I have learned about my ethnicity and have had numerous DNA matches that has allowed me to reasonably identify the family names of both of my birth parents who I believe have both passed on. I believe both my parents were in their teens when I was born and about 10 years after my birth, both married others and had families of their own who have no idea that I exist.

As a reasonably healthy senior with a very full life, I am not interested in initiating contact with either family as I do not appear to have any life threatening or inherited health issues. However, I still want to obtain my original birth record to confirm what I have had to learn in a very round about way. I would like to share the knowledge with my children. I know New York State is also considering legislation to grant access to original birth record and I am hopeful that both the Connecticut and New York efforts are successful.

As I mentioned above, I also have a step son who was adopted as an infant. Although his parents did not know his birth parents names, they shared with him that he was adopted and that after he turned 18 offered to help him find his birth parents. Fortunately they knew the the agency that handled the adoption and were able to get information to share with him. We met him when he was just turning 30 and I can honestly say that it has been a wonderful experience. We have become great friends with his adoptive mom and her family, he has been a wonderful big brother to my son and daughter and we have two wonderful grandchildren. None of this would have happened had he been denied access to his birth records!!!

I strongly believe that ALL adult adoptees should have access to their original birth certificates.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my testimony.

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