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To Whom It May Concern:

In 1963 my family suffered the tragedy of its newest member being placed for adoption at birth in Connecticut. At the time it was neither debated nor openly discussed but all the same it caused heartbreak that reached the entire extended family. Fortunately, in recent years contact with my niece has become possible and our lives have been greatly enriched because of that contact.

However, because of antiquated, paternalistic and out dated laws we were denied the joys of knowing her for many years. As a young adult she had a right to her birth and adoption records. She had a right to know her genetic heritage and health history. Because she was denied this information, she was deprived of ever meeting her birth father, her grandparents, parents, and her uncles. She and her first cousins were deprived of the pleasures of those important connections. For nearly fifty years the entire family was deprived of the certain knowledge that she was safe, and being loved cared for and educated. Her extended family was deprived of the joys of knowing her and enjoying her company.

Blessedly, she went to a loving home where she thrived; but as a young adult she had the **right** to choose whether she wanted to enlarge her life by including her genetic relations. The outdated laws of the state of Connecticut deprived her and thousands of other adoptees of that right.

Please use your elected power to right this egregious wrong.

Margaret Hamilton