

Support for S.B. 972

Dear Senators:

As a birthmother who relinquished a newborn daughter to adoption in 1961, never was I promised "confidentiality," nor would I want it. At the time I was a twenty year old college student with no other options. The doctor, nurse and social worker assured me, promised me that I would go on to live a "normal" life, closing the door on that chapter of profound loss. "Normal" at that time meant marriage and a family. That was the only promise. Well, I did get married...and divorced and have three now adult children, two of whom I raised as a single mother. All three of them are aware of their 57 year old sister and are anxious to meet her someday.

But this bill is about adoptees. I am a twenty-year member of an adoptee/birthparent support group in the D.C. Metro area. Once a month we gather and at any given time there can be as many as 4-5 adoptees and 8-10 birthparents. By the way, none of the birthparents that have come and gone over the years were promised "confidentiality." The adoptees share their longing, frustration, grief, anger, sorrow and "why are there so many roadblocks?" "Who am I? What is my history, my blood? Who are my people?" Some have grown up in happy, loving intact adoptive families, some in abusive adoptive families, others in adoptive families where they are so different that they have felt like aliens or outcasts.

The one thing they all share is to know their origins, to be able to hold in their hands and before their eyes that official, historical certificate of the truth of their birth. Name (if only know as "Baby" Smith), the name of their mother from whose body and heart they came. And perhaps the father, if he is known.

The OBC (Original Birth Certificate) is their lifeline, a key to their truth, their identity, their history. It is their right. I respectfully urge you to pass Senate Bill 972.

Most sincerely,

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