

I am writing to urge you to approve SB 972. This bill is about an adoptee having the right to one piece of paper only – the original birth certificate. The adopted person’s need to receive his or her original birth certificate does not reflect negatively on their adoptive family; it is simply a desire to know who they were at birth, what nationality they are, what name they received at birth. It is a basic human need. The original birth certificate is considered a legal document, a factual snapshot of the beginning of a person’s history. It belongs to the adopted person!

In Pennsylvania, our access to the original birth certificate law took effect in November 2017. In a little over one year since its inception, **4,793** PA-born adoptees have received their original birth certificate, with more requests being received weekly by Vital Statistics.

As a birth parent who placed a son for adoption in 1964, I support SB 972 and I urge you to do the same. It is time to give all adopted persons the same civil right each of us enjoys – the right to know who they are!

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Hoard, Birthmother
West Grove, PA