

Dear Member of the Planning & Development Committee:

As a former foster youth, I know many foster siblings who were adopted out of foster care. I was fortunate enough to be reunified with my biological mother as a teen, so I never had an issue accessing my original birth certificate. Many of my foster siblings who were adopted have not had access to their original birth certificates.

Why is it that adoptees born before 1/1/44 have access to their original birth certificates, but adoptees born between 1/1/44 and 10/1/83 don't, unless their parents are deceased; yet adoptees born after 10/1/83 do? That makes no sense to me.

Adoptees, in my opinion, should have access to their original birth certificates for several reasons; one being to access their family medical history. It is my understanding that some medical tests can't even be performed without family medical history, such as in certain cases of breast cancer. It is reprehensible to deny adoptees the same rights the general population have in order to access proper treatment for health-related illnesses.

There is much support for this legislation, including United Church of Christ, Episcopal Church, United Methodist Churches from Western Connecticut/New York Conference, Connecticut Bar Associations, Connecticut Medical Society and the National Association for Social Workers/Connecticut Chapter. There is also national support for this legislation, including Concerned United Birth Parents, National Foster Parent Association, as well as other notable organizations on both state and federal levels.

I urge you to join these states who allow unrestricted access to original birth certificates to adoptees: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon and Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration.