

Support of Senate Bill 972-The 2019 Adoptees Rights Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting my testimony in support of Senate Bill 972 which is an act concerning access to Original Birth Records by adult adopted persons in the state of Connecticut.

This Senate Bill 972 allows all adoptees, including persons adopted before October 1, 1983, and their adult children or grandchildren, to obtain uncertified copies of their own original birth certificate from the state Department of Public Health.

My best friend is married to the son of an adoptee born in Connecticut in 1958. My best friend's mother-in-law was born in Hartford and her adoption was finalized in New London. Her adoptive parents resided in Waterford. My best friend's mother-in-law has birth family in different towns of Connecticut such as New Haven, New Milford, Danbury, Sandy Hook, and Bethel.

I firmly believe that it is my best friend's mother-in-law's civil right to have access to her original birth certificate for medical history and her origin. Non-adoptees, such as myself, have always had access to their original birth certificate. I believe that it is truly unfair that adoptees do not. It is truly unjust for adoptees to have to pay to do a search for medical history and origin when non-adoptees have access immediately to that information.

I support Senate Bill 972 and the right for adoptees born prior to October 1, 1983 to obtain their original birth certificate.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony,

Rebecca Leathery
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