

Support for S.B. 972

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to you as a woman, an ADULT, in strong support of Bill 972, which would restore rights of ADULT adopted persons, born before October 1st, 1983 to their original/unadulterated/un-doctored birth certificates.

When I made the most difficult, gut-wrenching decision of my life, to relinquish my infant daughter at birth in 1984, I never imagined **nor wished, nor was ever promised,** that we would never have contact or that she wouldn't know me, nor ever know her origins.

In fact, I can assure you that I would never have allowed the adoption to be finalized had I thought we would be lost to each other forever. Thanks to new strides in technology, social media and the wide accessibility of DNA banks, we are putting an end to the secrets.

Over the years, I have met and spoken to many adopted persons and birth mothers, I estimate hundreds, and I can honestly only count on one hand the number of women who **initially** refused contact with their adopted adult children. In fact, these women, after overcoming the initial trepidation of dealing with their guilt and shame hoisted upon them by society, went on to have lifelong, meaningful and healing relationships with their "children". Stories of fearful birthmothers in hiding are anecdotal in my opinion.

Adults do not need protection from each other. If they do, there are already anti-harassment, protective and restraining orders in place for this.

The overwhelming majority of women and men that I have met, have thought and worried about their relinquished children **DAILY** and many simply wish to know that the children they relinquished are well, have forgiven them, and have had a happy life.

Please stop infantilizing adopted persons – these antiquated ideas have been perpetuated to protect fearful adoptive parents. In some cases, withholding this information is endangering them by denying them access to precious medical information they might only learn from their families of origin!

Please stop marginalizing adopted persons and grant them their rights, and stop punishing them for their parents' actions.

Grant adult adoptees their rightful information as all American citizens deserve.

Sincerely,
Sylvie Makara

Santa Monica, CA 90401