

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am an adoptee and an adoptee rights advocate. I believe that all adoptees who have reached the age of majority should have unencumbered access to their Original Birth Certificates. It is a fundamental human and civil right. I ask that you support SB 972, which would restore that right.

Currently, Connecticut's tiered access law discriminates against a portion of the state's adoptees, based on the date of finalization, by subjecting them to a burdensome legal process not required of post-1983 adoptees or the non-adopted. There is no legitimate interest for this distinction.

No promise of anonymity was made to birth parents by the state. It would be an irrational promise to make. OBCs are sealed upon finalization. If a child is not adopted or the adoption is disrupted the OBC is not sealed. The courts have ruled that there is no right to anonymity from one's offspring.

Such a promise cannot be guaranteed, and it is beyond the state's purview to interfere in the potential free association of adults - beyond those interactions already proscribed by law. Access is not about search, reunion, or medical history. It is about equality under the law. SB 972 recognizes access to OBCs as an intrinsic right belonging to all Connecticut adoptees. Please join me in supporting it.

TJ McHugh