

Please support and pass S.B. 972

I am an adoptee. I was able to identify my biological parents with DNA information. Here is a synopsis of events in my life:

1. I am the father of twin boys. My twins and I *had* no medical knowledge of problems related to health.
2. I had two strokes at a very young age. The first at age 35 and the second at age 37.
3. The strokes came from extra skin tissue inside the nasal cavity. *This information was not reported on my non-identifying information in 1967.*
4. My biological father was an employee of the United States Secret Service. Thus, his personal information was hidden due to his employment. Accordingly, the only method to learn more about this individual was through the use of DNA.
5. *I have made contact with **both** of my biological families.* My paternal family **has had nasal surgery** to correct for the extra skin tissue inside the nasal cavity. Once again, DNA allowed me to discover this information. I had to bypass laws that forced me to accept the status quo for all citizens in the United State by using the results related to a DNA report by a company called Promethease (located in Canada!). This critical piece of information would have provided my family with enough information to stop me from becoming a victim of two strokes. Accordingly, the DNA information I was able to collect, over 3 years, allowed me to take some corrective measures. This information would have been highly beneficial to know in advance if adoptees had the right to communicate with their biological families. Here are the ways the impacts could have been resolved in my case:
 - a. No financial burden placed upon my family for job losses.
 - b. No financial burden placed upon me for DNA information harvesting. I had to pay for multiple DNA services (Ancestry, 23andMe, FamilyTreeDNA, My Heritage, Promethease) which took time and money to get some answers!
 - c. No emotional stress introduced to the entire family related to my strokes
 - d. No time wasted through the use of investigative measures to discover more information about inherited health issues (3 years wasted!)
 - e. No extra burden placed upon the state to handle medical, financial/employment information related to my strokes.

I fully support the use of DNA as being beneficial. I have used my investigative abilities to bypass laws put in place that were meant to shield biological parents and adoptees. In my opinion, once age 18 is achieved, the adoptee should be allowed to make contact with biological parents (or vice versa). Every person does not have the ability or financial means to recover the vast quantity of information related to DNA. Not all adoptees (or biological parents) have animosity toward their parents and they could learn life-saving medical information that is ‘unknown’ (like my own). This assumes that the biological parents/adoptee can look beyond emotional scars to find the information they are seeking. I knew that my search would force me to focus on my ability to handle these emotions. However, I knew that answering these simple medical questions were of the highest importance for myself. I needed answers that were not given. My family needed answers that were not given. Thus, DNA became the ideal solution because it provided the information my family was after.

Plus, without DNA, my twin boys are left with no knowledge about reasons their father has medical issues or the issues they might have inherited. This implies that their own medical information will be more problematic or impossible to comprehend, simply because I have no knowledge of my own medical information other than information I was able to discover. It also implies that there will be an expenditure made in the future by my children and by the state that they have no knowledge of. They could be allowed to remove this burden on the state if my children are allowed to know this type of information.

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