

## Adoptees' Rights

Although I live in Connecticut, I was born in Pennsylvania in 1948 to a seventeen year-old girl who was in love with a handsome Italian Marine who had served in WWII. He had a motorcycle and they drank "Dago Red wine" from a fruit jar on hot summer nights. How do I know this? After four years of searching for my mother, the HB 162 finally passed in PA and, through Ancestry, I was able to find her. She is 89; I have three sisters who had no idea I existed and for the first time in my entire life, I feel whole. The time for secrets has passed. Adult adoptees need to know who they are and they need to see people who look like them. It is their birthright. I wrote the following in support of HB 162 in PA and I will pass it along to support adoptees in CT.

"Having been told all my life that finding my ancestry is not important by those who accept it as their birthright, it is time for [Senate Bill 972] to pass."

I hope the State of Connecticut takes this sentiment to heart; the happiness of many depend upon it - not only for the adoptees, but for the mothers who have searched for years for their children.

Sincerely,

Trudy M. Mitchell

Bolton, CT