

I am a birth mother and I am writing in full and enthusiastic support of Connecticut SB 972. I lived in unnecessary painful silence and shame about my life experience as a person who placed an infant for adoption until I found proper and truthful support from others who had lived the same experience as me. Adoption is damaging to the child as well as the birth mother, and the cultural norm of hiding the truth from adoptees inhibits the healing that is possible from connecting with others, whether fellow adoptees or birth parents. Every birth parent has the gift for the adoptee of a story of how they came to be. Tangible, authentic documents that support the identity of a person, adopted or not, are vital to the human existence.

A birth mother is not promised anonymity, and such a promise is not in the legal documents for an adoption. This bill cannot be prevented based upon supposed verbal promises that were never put into writing. Birth mothers can document all sorts of verbal promises that were made at the time of relinquishment yet later not enforced. Anonymity is an empty promise used possibly to tell the mother what she wants to hear at the time, but not legally sound.

Studies show that over 99% of mothers like me do not wish for anonymity.

I wholeheartedly support the rights of adoptees who wish unfettered access to their birth certificates.

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