

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON ADOPTION

Dear Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

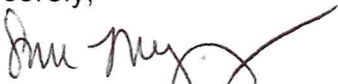
My name is Susan Myers and I am the current President of the Connecticut Council on Adoption (CCA). CCA is a not-for-profit, 501c3, voluntary membership organization dedicated to permanence for children and ethical, effective adoption practices in the state of Connecticut.

For over 40 years we have served as a resource and as advocates to all of those who are touched by adoption. Our members include adoptive parents, birth parents, adoptees and adoption professionals, and agencies working with adoptive families.

The CT Council on Adoption supports SB 972, which would restore the right of adopted adult citizens to receive a copy of their original birth certificate. This bill provides equal protection under the law and ends discrimination against adopted persons. It affirms a human and civil right for all people to know their biological origin. Most importantly, it **protects the health of adoptees and their children**. SB 972 would facilitate adoptees' access to medical health history information, which they cannot readily access like non-adoptees. And, SB 972 would restore a right that existed until 1975 for all adult adoptees in Connecticut, when a floor amendment approved without notice or hearing sealed birth records for adoptees. *Access was once the law in Connecticut.*

On behalf of the members of CCA, I urge positive consideration of SB 972.

Sincerely,



Susan Myers, LMSW
President

March 13, 2019