

Dear Members of the Planning & Development Committee,

I am a birth mother who relinquished a son for adoption in 1968, and am one of the very fortunate ones to have reunited with my David Christopher Weaver. I was desperately hoping I would someday meet him, which I did when he was 22 in 1990, and now I've known him more than 28 years -- longer than I hadn't. He's part of my family and his children call me Grandma. I also became very close to his adoptive mother.

I hereby beseech you to support SB972 to restore the rights of adult adoptees to obtain their original birth certificates. At the time of David's birth he *did* have that right upon reaching adulthood, but that right was taken away. For adoptees born prior to October 31, 1983, original birth certificates are safely sealed and locked away, and the adult adoptee is required to move mountains to obtain that document. For most it is virtually impossible. Adoptees are the only segment of the adoption triad who had nothing to say about their lot in life, and I feel they deserve to know their heritage and medical history -- as well as the right to connect with their blood relatives. The original document is so much more a part of one's identity than the "amended" one, although I do feel the amended one is also an important part of who David is and I'm grateful to Joyce and Dick Weaver for their loving care of my son.

Time is running out! As the population of adult adoptees continues to age it is my fear that it will become too late for them to finally put the entire puzzle together with this vital missing piece. I also fear for the birth parents who are aging rapidly and still hoping that the lost child of theirs will show up. There is a huge hole in their hearts than can only be filled by that lost child. The argument that birth parents need protection is quite naive and way behind the times. Most birth parent/adoptee reunions are very positive and it is my belief that MOST birth mothers live with the hope that one day this relinquished child will show up on her doorstep.

David's and my relationship has flourished and evolved for close to 29 years, and it hurts me to think that others are being cheated out of this joy. It will mean the world to me and countless others to see that the passing of SB972 finally becomes a reality. I thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Penny Palmer