

Re: Supporting S.B.972

March 12, 2019

I have thoroughly read S.B. 972 and support and concur with the **Statement of Purpose**: “To grant access to original birth records to all adopted persons eighteen years of age or older who were born in Connecticut regardless of date of birth.”

I am a birth mother reunited for over four years with my son born in 1968 when I was an unmarried single. His first letter to me in October, 2014, stated,

*“I want you to know that soon after I turned 20 I began my search for you. I contacted CHS in 1988 and after much wrangling received their file that did not divulge your name or any identifying information. They had a search service, but they charged \$200 per hour and wanted \$1,000 down to begin. Not only was I incapable of coming up with the money, **but they informed me that there was no guarantee you’d want contact even if they found you.**”*

While it took him twenty-six more years to find me, my life has changed because of our reunion. I have embraced this brilliant, compassionate, loving man. Although I lived abroad for many years and travelled extensively, he has brought new and exciting dynamics and perspectives into my life with his creativity in poetry, the arts and a broad literary background from ancient civilization to contemporary – which I had never before explored – and other areas as well. What a delight he is! He has enriched my life!

When I relinquished my son I was told my parental rights were terminated and I had no legal right to have any further contact with him. In a very threatening manner I was told to NEVER try to contact him or his adoptive family! I was NEVER promised confidentiality or told that my identity would be protected in the future from any search he might initiate. There were NO promises, only platitudes to forget and not worry anymore and find a good man and get married. The majority of agencies cannot show you those documents of confidentiality with birthmothers’ signatures or initials . . . because there are none!

The United States Constitution recognized that certain universal rights cannot be taken away by legislation, as they are beyond the control of a government, being naturally given to every individual at birth, and that these rights are retained throughout life. The framers of the Constitution acknowledged the inalienable rights of man in this powerful phrase from the Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

I find it troubling that the government has felt the need to step in to arbitrate and make binding laws in flesh and blood relationships between two people who as mature adults negotiate life’s twists and turns in every other life experiences. I support passing S.B. 972 for an adoptee to obtain their original birth certificate . . . which will rightfully restore and validate that they were created “equal” at birth just like their non-adoptive contemporaries – who can obtain their original birth certificate without a court order.

Thank you.

Ms. Lee Peterson