

## **Support for S.B. 972**

Sun 3/10/2019 8:06 AM

I am a birth mother and I am asking you to please support and pass S.B. 972 to open access for adult adoptees to obtain their original birth certificates.

I was never promised confidentiality nor would I have requested it. I am appalled that my rights, as the person who made this decision decades ago, and the rights of my son's adoptive parents, who made the decision to adopt, are more important than the one person who had no choice in any of this. I am in reunion with him now, and at my encouragement he went through the process to get a copy of his original birth certificate via a court order as is the current process for him, only to be denied because he did not have written permission from his birth father. The person I named on the certificate as his birth father, but who was not involved during my pregnancy and my son's birth, was never found, and whose rights were terminated by the state - has more rights than my adult son. That is unacceptable. It is unacceptable that adult adoptees are discriminated against in this way. All adult adoptees should have the right to access their original birth certificate like anyone else. The fact that there is still a subset of adoptees who face huge barriers that make access impossible is not right, and is discriminatory. Please pass this bill to allow all adult adoptees the ability to request and receive an uncertified copy of their original birth certificate. Thank you!

Karen Quesnel

## **Support for S.B. 972 - Additional Information to add to my testimony**

Wed 3/13/2019 11:04 AM

Dear Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

If I may, I would like to add additional information to my testimony submitted by email on Sunday, March 10 to include the following details:

I was a resident for a time of St. Agnes Home for Unwed Mothers when it was located on the Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield. I became a client of Catholic Family Services in Hartford (now Catholic Charities) and was assigned to a caseworker. Although there was a lot of shame placed on women back then being unwed and pregnant - for example I had an OB/GYN who refused me as a patient, and my employer put me on temporary leave for the duration of my pregnancy, I did not hide my condition. What I think is important to add to my testimony is that I recall signing the paperwork relinquishing my son for adoption, and what I remember is that the caseworker assigned to me was in the room as well as an attorney. Not my attorney - I had no one with me to represent me. I was not promised confidentiality, and as I stated previously, I would not have wanted it. The last thing in the world I wanted for my son was to not be able to find out my identity and to know everything he would want to know about his history and his birth families.

Thank you,

Karen Quesnel