

**I write in support of Access Connecticut's efforts to restore the rights of adult adoptees, Senate Bill 972,**

I write as a mother who lost a child to adoption in 1968 and has been an activist for adoption reform ever since. I have spent more than 40 years researching, writing and speaking about the need to reform and humanize adoption practices in this country.

I write to dispel the myths that birth parents have any right to anonymity from their children that overrides the civil right to equality of those adopted-out children. Parents who lost parental rights - voluntarily or involuntarily - were ever made any promises of confidentiality. See

<http://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1030&context=mjgl>

No relinquishing parent, in fact, *could* be given any promise of anonymity inasmuch as records of such births are not sealed until if and when there is a finalized adoption, which is not always the case. Furthermore, anyone can be found, especially in today's Internet and DNA age. See: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mirah-riben/adoptee-access-to-birth-certificates-protects-their\\_b\\_7064928.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mirah-riben/adoptee-access-to-birth-certificates-protects-their_b_7064928.html)

The time is long overdue to end discrimination against adopted citizens in Connecticut with laws that apply only to this one group of people based only on their birth status. Such laws are outdated and discriminate prejudicially, violating constitutional rights of equal treatment under the law. Denying adopted persons the same rights enjoyed by all other Connecticut citizens who are not adopted in regards to the ability to access their own birth records, treats them as a subclass of citizen, and unjustly prejudices them as potentially dangerous simply for having been adopted.

Denying adopted persons equal protection of the laws constitutes unwarranted interference by the government with the right of people to choose whether to associate, and violates their constitutional right to equal protection under the law.

Adoptee rights are human rights. Not even convicted felons are denied access to their own birth certificate. The rights of all adopted citizen need to be made totally equal to the rights of non-adopted citizens and that means no restriction on their access that does not apply to all citizens of the same state. I urge you to pass *unfettered access* to all adult adoptees in Connecticut.

See: "Why all States Should Allow Adoptees Access to Their Authentic Birth Certificates": [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mirah-riben/why-all-us-states-should-b\\_8858162.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mirah-riben/why-all-us-states-should-b_8858162.html)

Mirah Riben, author: THE STORK MARKET: America's Multi-Billion Dollar Unregulated Adoption Industry