

Support for S.B. 972

I am a 72 year old woman who was adopted at the age of one month. I was the result of a date rape in Salem, OR in January of 1946. I found my birth mother with the help of WARM, a search and support group in Seattle, WA, in February of 1977.

My birth mother was thrilled to hear from me and we spent the next twenty years (she passed 12/12/1997) enjoying each other as a mother and daughter should. She had four boys, my half brothers and to this day they are one of the best things that ever happened to me.

I found my deceased birth father in 1992 and found more siblings, a half brother and half sister. They have both passed now but we shared many adventures together and I am fortunate to have many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews and they are very much part of my extended family.

This entire experience is a roller coaster of emotions but changed my world. I am related to Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt. I know why I am almost 6 feet tall and why I have always had a weight problems and why I had to have an ileostomy at the age of 23.

My mental health and physical health are great at my age, and I take no medications and am active in my community. I also vote and spent many years helping other states make access to records a reality. Check out Oregon and Washington for what has been going on for over 40 years. Hundreds and hundreds of family have been reunited and memories made.

Please know that you are doing a wonderful thing for everyone!

Sophie Richards

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Feel free to contact me at anytime.

P.S. As an adoptee, who adoptive parents passed in early 1980's and my adopted brother is gone, I have a whole other family and as of yesterday have 888 DNA matches with people who are my 1st thru 4th cousins. It is a wonderful life!