

## Support for S.B. 972

Dear members of the Planning and Development Committee

I was adopted at an early age and have fleeting remembrances of people who cared for me . I am thrilled to have found out who my birth mother was after she had died through extensive research. Now at 73 years old I still don't have closure as to the paternal side of my family .

Why is it so important to withhold the birth certificate. It is very possible that

Little piece of paper may hold the key to the rest of my search and I fear that because of my age -it is almost a forgone conclusion that my birth father has also passed away. As with everything time passes , things change , people who held strong convictions may soften see things differently. This is - I hope where we are today. Children who were adopted 60 years ago or more I think deserve to have their birth certificates available if they want and if the birth parent or parents of their-immediate families object - then I say "let go" . In today's world of thought - what could have been so bad in the mother's life -why was it so important to keep a secret like this? Out of wed-lock? Rape ? Worried about what the neighbors will say ? We have such big helping hands in this country today that these issues can be addressed and these excuses don't hold water anymore .The Catholic Church is not the church of 69 or seventy years ago- they are the best at being secret holders! - but liberal views are coming into play . The stigma or shame is gone with unwanted pregnancies. Actually we're lucky to not have been aborted . Women are encouraged - if placing their child up for adoption - that it is possible to be a very interactive part of the child and adopted parents life - no secret here. This is an example of changing times and attitudes to this age old problem of adoption. It's time for this committee - to break the barrier that has constrained all this type of information from the adoptee to allow all adoptees their God- given right to know their origins and be given access to their adoption paperwork and birth certificates. Adoptees need to know their family medical history, their relatives especially siblings that they may have. Unless you have walked in my shoes and had this unfinished part of your life denied to you - then you really can't understand the craving for this knowledge. I will say that as a young child I didn't give it much thought, but as a young adult , Getting married , having children and not knowing a medical history

I've always been very anxious of what could transpire medically. I was one of the lucky and truly blessed adoptees To not have too many issues that were blind to me . I did find out that heart disease and Alzhimers could be in my future. Please pass HB972- we are so close to helping so many! Thank you for all your consdieration and may God bless you all sincerely Mary B Romeo