

> Please support and pass S.B. 972. I am a 51 year old adoptee born in Washington DC. I have been marginalized due to the fact that I cannot access my own birth certificate and it makes me very angry. My original identity was essentially erased and my current birth certificate has the names of two people I love very much but have absolutely no biological connection to listed as my parents. It's as if I was discarded and then brought back as someone completely different. I had to petition the DC courts to unseal my records and when the intermediary discovered my birthmother to be deceased the case was immediately closed. I discovered the identity of my birthmother through a commercial DNA service and have been reunited with her children who never knew of my existence. They have welcomed me into their family and have told me so much about my birthmother. They feel certain that "our" mother would have wanted to know me. They were dumbfounded to learn what I'd been through in an effort to find her and them. This journey has left me feeling like less than a person-now that babies from the closed records era are full-grown adults, who needs to be protected by this archaic law? For a person not to be able to access THEIR OWN birth records is so unjust. Now with the advent of commercial DNA testing these records are being essentially unsealed by adoptees and birthparents who want to find each other. Wouldn't it be better if these matters could be handled in private instead of having so many reach out through social media or directly to a sibling that didn't know anything about them? Again, I urge you to pass this bill-it won't help me but it will help my fellow adoptees in Connecticut.

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> Sincerely,

> Eileen Shifflett