

Members of the Planning & Development Committee:

I am a New York-born adoptee and Old Greenwich resident writing to urge support for S.B. 972: The 2019 Adoptee Rights Bill.

Like everyone else, adoptees should have access to the documents that represent our truth. It's a travesty that we don't -- that in order to figure out who we are we have to look to DNA testing or social media pleas for information.

Adoptees are not forever children. We do not need protection, secrecy or anonymity from the people who conceived and birthed us, nor do we require any special classification to mark us. In fact, the "protection" so many people think closed records afford us amounts to a cruel lifetime sentence of always being less-than. Though adoptees are at the center of the adoption arrangement, current law robs us of dignity and reduces us to an afterthought. Let's please finally put outdated mores and misplaced concerns behind us, where they belong, and ensure that our laws reflect today's reality and treat adoptees equally.

An original birth certificate may seem like a simple piece of paper to some people, but it carries enormous weight for an adoptee. It represents validation, acknowledgment, and a possible path to finding natural relatives and learning critical medical information that can be vital for the well-being of an adoptee and her children and grandchildren.

It's high time for the state -- indeed all states -- to recognize that our identities are ours alone to keep and mold.

Please do the right thing and enact S.B. 972.

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