

Re: Senate Bill 972

Dear Members of the Planning & Development Committee:

My name is Nancy Verrier and I am an adoptive mother and an LMFT who specializes in working with all members of the adoption community. I have written two books on the subject of adoption, one of which I have been told is the most widely-read adoption book in the country. It has also been translated into several languages. I am considered an expert in the subject and highly respected as a speaker who lectures and presents workshops which reflect the issues of relinquishment and adoption. I am giving you this information because I want you to know that I have a good understanding of what goes on in the hearts and minds of adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents.

My question to you is why should adoptees be the only group in the country who isn't allowed to know who they are and where they come from genetically, culturally, and geographically? Everyone has a right to know who they are. Adoption is a legal and social agreement that has nothing to do with genetics or ancestry. Adoptees are the only ones in the adoption triad who had NO CHOICE in what happened to them when they were born. Why now, when they are adults, are they still given no choice. We know much more about DNA today and, therefore have no excuse for dismissing genetics in defining who we are. Thousands of people are checking with DNA data bases for ancestral history so it must be important.

I have heard the old statement: "But we promised birth mothers confidentially." I know hundreds of birth mothers, most of whom say they were promised no such thing and wouldn't have wanted such a promise anyway. The great majority want desperately to know where their children are and how they are doing. But even if it were true, why is their position more important than that of the adoptee, who had no voice at the time of their relinquishment and adoption? It makes absolutely no sense.

Everyone has a right to know who they are and adoptees are asking for that right just like everyone else. Please listen carefully to this bill and begin the process of allowing them to have that right.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy Verrier

Nancy Verrier, LMFT
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and *Coming Home to Self*.
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