

RE: Senate Bill 972

To Whom it May Concern:

As an adult adoptee from Pennsylvania, I urge you to support SB 972 to support the right of adult adoptees to access unconditionally their original birth certificates.

As an adopted adult, I believe it is time that adult adoptees be treated as a full citizen, and not as a potential hazard to their birth parents. Adoptees have a right to obtain the original, government held records of their birth in the same manner as all other adult citizens. Whether they choose to search or not, these documents are theirs. The right to one's own unaltered birth certificate is a fundamental one to which all citizens are entitled, regardless of the circumstances of their birth – circumstances over which they had no control in any case. We are adoptees normal human beings who want to know where they came from.

The law denying adoptees access to their records is out dated and unnecessary. As adults, adoptees are still regarded as a child by the government and denied their civil right to access their original birth certificate. There is no reason why adult adoptees should not be treated the same as everyone else.

As long as the sealed records system continues to exist, an aura of shame will cling to adoption. Adoption is not and has never been a shameful process, and it's time to stop treating it as one. Please support SB 972.

Sincerely,

Holly L. Watson

Adult Adoptee