

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is John Bowman. I've lived in Fairfield, CT for 42 years. Senate Bill 113 is vitally important to me. I urge you to support and pass SB 113.

Please consider my personal testimony in making your decision.

I was born in 1949 to an 18 year old woman and 23 year old man. Though they were married, I was relinquished at birth for adoption. By 1950, I was adopted in CT. My adoptive parents were wonderful to me. At about age 8, they shared what few details they knew about my birth. I've always considered them to be my parents, and always will. Sadly, my dad passed away 32 years ago and my mom passed away 18 years ago.

Now, at age 70, (father of three and grandfather of four), I face certain health problems for which detailed family medical history would be helpful. But it is not available to me, because I was adopted. Three generations of my family are left in the dark on important health issues. That's unfair.

Equally unfair, and equally important, is that I am denied knowledge of my personal birth-identity and biological ancestry. Why? Because the state took it away from me at birth, and has kept it away from me as an adult. I am not allowed to know that what is the birthright of all other children.

In my opinion, my birth identity was denied to me at birth by the state. Protecting a minor, the state may have some authority. But when a person turns 21, with all other adult citizen rights and privileges automatically granted by the state, birth identity continues to be denied by the state for the adopted. The state continues to treat me as a minor, with no rights at all when it comes to my birth identity.

More than unfair, in my opinion, the action (and inaction) of the state relative to adoptees represents discrimination against a specific class of people. Discrimination would be illegal against other classes of people defined by race, creed, color, or gender. It should be illegal against the specific class of people defined as adult adoptees.

The psychological damage to individual adoptees from not knowing their birth identities is well documented and nearly universal. This pain, suffering and humiliation inflicted upon adoptees by certain states, including CT, is so severe that it can be considered cruel and unusual punishment, with a lifetime sentence, for the unpardonable crime of being adopted. Americans are to be protected against cruel and unusual punishment by the 8th Amendment to the United States Constitution. But this state exempts adult adoptees from that Constitutional protection. This is unacceptable.

I implore you, the time has come to right these wrongs, by supporting SB 113. As an adult adoptee, I beg you to return to me the birth-identity knowledge that the state has held secret, through no fault of my own, against my will, and without any reasonable recourse. For adult adoptees my age, time in life is running short to be granted these mercies by the state. But it is not yet too late. The time is now.

Sincerely, John Bowman