



**SB 113—An Act Concerning Access to Original Birth Records
By Adult Adopted Persons**

Submitted by Karen Caffrey, Co-President, Access Connecticut, Now, Inc.
Planning & Development Committee
Public Hearing February 21, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Cassano and Representative McCarthy Vahey, Vice-Chairs Senator Needleman and Representative Baker, Ranking Members Representative Zawistowski and Senator Champagne and Distinguished Members of the Planning & Development Committee:

Access Connecticut Now, Inc. **SUPPORTS SB 113-Act Concerning Access to Original Birth Records By Adult Adopted Persons**, so that all Connecticut adult adoptees, including those born before October 1, 1983, and their adult children and grandchildren, can obtain a copy of their original birth certificate.

SB 113 establishes equal treatment under the law.

SB 113 establishes equality for Connecticut adoptees with all non-adopted people. It also creates equality *among* adoptees, who currently have different legal rights depending on their date of birth and whether their birth parents are dead or alive. (See attached Four Classes of Adoptees.)

SB 113 streamlines and simplifies the law.

Laws based on the truth are *simple*. Laws based on legal fictions are *complicated*.

The history of adoptee birth certificate laws (see attached Timeline) is *complicated* because it is based on the legal fiction that the adoptee is the biological offspring of their adoptive parents. This fiction was created in an attempt to remedy societal attitudes of shame and inequality towards individuals who had sex and became pregnant outside of marriage, or who were “illegitimate”.

These people were deemed *less* equal:

- Adoptees/”bastards,””illegimates” for carrying the bad blood of their sinful, unmarried mother and father.
- Birth mothers, for shamefully engaging in sexual relations outside of marriage.
- Adoptive parents, for being infertile.

These people were deemed *more* equal:

- Birth fathers, who avoided paternity suits and parental responsibility by not being named in original birth certificates.

SB 113 simply allows every person in the state to have the same right to obtain the true government record of their birth. It is straightforward, streamlined and egalitarian.

SB 113 improves existing law.

- It extends equality to all adopted citizens by providing access to **a true, accurate birth certificate** which memorializes an intimate event that pertains to them.
- It acknowledges that **information about birth is co-owned** by the two people who are most intimately involved: the woman giving birth and the person being born.
- It **strengthens faith and trust in government** by treating all citizens equally under the law.
- It **helps adoptees and their children protect their health** by enabling them to more easily obtain updated family medical history from birth relatives and public sources.
- It **reduces the risk of public disclosure** of birth parents by reducing the likelihood that adoptees will resort to consumer DNA testing.
- It **restores a right** that all adoptees had until 1975 under Connecticut law.
- It is **supported by 85% of Connecticut residents** (2007 Connecticut Adoption Survey conducted by the University of Connecticut Center for Survey Research and Analysis)

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Caffrey, LPC, JD
Co-President
Access Connecticut Now, Inc.
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Access Connecticut is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization of adoptees, birth and adoptive parents, adoption professionals and supporters.



YES

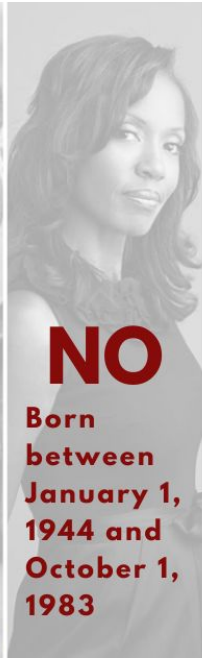
Born before
January 1,
1944



YES

Born
between
January 1,
1944 and
October 1,
1983

Can prove
birthparents
are deceased.



NO

Born
between
January 1,
1944 and
October 1,
1983



YES

Born after
October 1,
1983

CONNECTICUT'S FOUR CLASSES OF ADOPTees

Connecticut's unfair
and inconsistent
government practices
regarding adult
adopted persons'
access to original birth
certificates.

TIMELINE

OF CONNECTICUT STATUTES FOR ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE ACCESS

