

Please pass this bill to allow everyone to access their birth certificates.

It is simply unfair to discriminate against people based on age to determine if they can see their original birth certificates.

It is more important than ever to have your medical history. While you can spend thousands (or even tens of thousands, for all we know) to find that out, people shouldn't be forced to pay because they were adopted. They didn't choose to be adopted, they had zero say in it. They shouldn't have to leave their medical histories blank. Even if their natural families aren't interested in a relationship, they will usually agree to give that information — and that can be life-saving. If you know your family has a history of high blood pressure, any types of cancer, diabetes, heart problems — or anything else, your doctor can help you prevent them or screen you for them earlier than the "average" person. I know a family (a natural one) that had a terrible scare when their youngest teen had a heart attack — and very nearly died (thank God there was an AED and a person who knew how to use it or the outcome would have been far different). They immediately had their other children screened, as well as themselves. Thankfully, their youngest is fine now. But, if they had a child who had been adopted by another family, that child would never know to get screened for that particular heart problem. That child could very well die early simply because they had no access to this life-saving information. This type of situation is also true of older adults — adults who would benefit greatly from having that info.

I must also point out that genetic testing is very, very popular. People want to know where they came from and who they are related to. It's not adoptees driving that industry, it's everyone. DNA matters. DNA counts. No matter how much people want to ignore that simple, basic, physical fact, it's true. You've seen all those shows, read all those stories about people discovering family they didn't know existed. Not only because of adoption, but because of other circumstances, too. Having an original birth certificate helps this search immensely.

I know some people say women were promised confidentiality if they gave up their babies, but the women weren't. Plus, everyone is an adult. If adults do not want relationships with one another, they can say so. The government shouldn't stand in their way — especially when it's only a difference of age between those who can have their original birth certificates and those who can't.

Disclosure: I'm not a birth mother, adoptee or adopter. I am simply interested in making sure everyone is treated fairly. Discriminating based on age isn't fair, just or moral. It's time to pass this bill and rectify this.

The world didn't end when you gave younger adults the right to see their original birth certificates. It's even less likely to end when you give older adults the same opportunity.

Please pass this bill for the sake of simply fairness. I assure you, treating all adoptees the same will be something you can be proud of.

Sincerely  
Beth Finchler  
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