

Hello,

I am writing this email as the daughter of an adoptee who was born prior to 1983. My father was born in 1953. At 67 years old, he's had several medical issues arise over the years that, had he had access to his birth certificate and any other records on file, he perhaps could have screened and prepared for them when he was younger.

As a parent myself, upon discovering I was pregnant, I was asked many questions about my medical history as well as my parents. When it came to paternal questions, nearly everything was left blank because we just don't know my father's medical history. All my life I knew my father didn't have access to his information and I knew I didn't have it for myself either but the realization that this cycle will continue with my own children pains me.

Recently, through DNA testing, my father discovered he has 3 siblings. He has learned some of his medical history through them but, unfortunately, missed meeting his birth-mother by less than a year. Questions still remain as to who his father is and if he is alive or deceased, and what his medical history is.

What strikes us is that people born after 1983 have access to their birth certificates yet people born prior to them are not. Why is this restricted? If anything, the people born prior to 1983 should be a priority when it comes to vital information when it comes to their health and maybe finding answers to questions before it's too late.

I ask you to picture your loved one; your mother, your grandmother, your great-grandmother or your maybe father. Someone in their 80's, 90's; someone who perhaps is on their death bed. Now imagine they were adopted and you could grant them one last wish. What if that wish was to obtain their birth certificate to get answers as to who they are, who their family is, where they came from. Wouldn't that be something?

I ask you to please support and pass SB 113 for adoptees and their families. We all deserve equality when it comes to our personal information and where our life began.

Sincerely,
Kirsten Gilligan