

February 19, 2020

Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing

February 21, 2020

In Support of Senate Bill 113

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES BY ADULT ADOPTED PERSONS.

Co- Chairs Cassano and Vahey, Ranking Members Champagne and Zawistowski and Committee Members,

2020 marks my 45th year as a birthmother, 27 years in reunion with my now adult child and 31 years of advocacy to restore her right to own a copy of her original birth certificate.

I have lost count of how many times I have written testimony and attended and spoke at public hearings, in urgent attempts to move the Connecticut legislature.

The restoration of some adoptee rights in 2014 under Public Act 14-133 was an epic victory for the autonomy of men and women born and adopted in Connecticut after October 1, 1983 but the work is not over.

I surrendered the awesome joy of raising my daughter because of social and economic conditions that I could not overcome in 1975 at the age of 19. I unwittingly consigned her to life without the legal ability

to own the document that memorialized her birth. She has been 45 years without that ability. I have lived that fact with her for 27 years. Please make my 31st year of petitioning for my daughter's rights, the year of epic victory for her. Please support SB 113.

Holly Harlow

11 Edmund Street

Newington CT 06111