

May this email serve as testimony in support of Senate Bill 113. I am an adoptee born in 1966 in Connecticut seeking my original Birth Certificate. I am seeking equal protection under the law. It is a basic human and civil right for every person to know his or her biological origins. As an adopted person, I believe I should be treated fairly and consistently as non-adoptees, and rules should be applied uniformly, like any other ordinary person who can obtain their original birth certificate. Currently, state law *discriminates* between adopted persons and non-adopted persons and *between* older and younger adoptees. Under current law, pre-1983 adult adoptees cannot obtain their original birth certificate until their biological parents are deceased. I find it grossly unfair that a state official can view my birth certificate, but I cannot.

This Bill protects the health of adoptees and their children. I developed a medical condition later in life and if had I known my medical history, I likely would have been able to delay onset. The American Medical Society affirms the importance of current family medical history in protecting health.

I have been waiting many years for this legislation to pass, and so far have not pursued using a consumer DNA service to find my origins. I fear that going this route might not only expose my birth mother, but potentially other relatives as well. I feel this would be exposing myself and my birth mother in a far more public forum than if I simply had access to my original birth certificate. I am hoping that I will not be forced to pursue this avenue to obtain my information.

I am asking for your support in considering the rights of all adoptees and passing this Senate Bill 113.

Respectfully,
Jacqueline Hawes