

I am writing in support of SB 113. I am a birthmother and have been in reunion with my sons for 20+ years. I am also a Clinical Social Worker and have 46 years experience working in this field. So I have both lived experience and professional expertise to offer. And from both realms of my experience, I am 100% in favor of opening up birth records for adopted individuals. The common argument is that birth mothers were promised confidentiality. I was never promised any sort of confidentiality. In fact, my full name was written on some of the documents that his parents received at the time of the adoption. The only thing confidential about my experience was that I was hidden away in an institutional facility, under an assumed name.

It has been unequivocally proven that adoptions wrapped in secrecy are extremely unhealthy for minor children. Continuing to treat adoptees like children into their dotage, by not giving them the key to their own identity, is an abuse of their civil rights. Everyone is due the information about where they came from. These laws are antiquated and need to be brought up to standards that are fitting to the knowledge and practice we have developed around adoption.

Opening adoption records is not about searching. It is righting a wrong which has been perpetrated on an entire segment of our society. It is treating adoptees like every other citizen and giving them the right to know who they are and where they came from. With the advent of DNA testing, adoptees and birthparents finding one another easily. But that has not slowed down the movement for Open Birth Records, in fact, it may have accelerated it. You have people who know one another, are having a long term relationships but are still not permitted to obtain their own vital records.

Thank you for your consideration,

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