

Re: Support Senate Bill 113, An Act Concerning Access to Original Birth Records By Adult Adopted Persons

As an adult adoptee, I urge you to support Senate Bill 113, An Act Concerning Access to Original Birth Records By Adult Adopted Persons, which will allow all adoptees, and their adult children or grandchildren, to obtain uncertified copies of the adoptee's own original birth certificate from the registrar of the town where they were born.

I was lucky: I found my birth parents through a private searcher decades ago. Both my birth mother and my birth father were very happy when I contacted them, and welcomed me into their lives. Though my father is no longer living, I stay in touch with my half-sister and we always get together when our travels bring us near. My mother is still alive and I have been a part of her family, along with my half-siblings and nieces and nephews, for more than half my life. These relationships are especially valuable to me because my adoptive mother died when I was only 20.

With the availability of consumer DNA, I now have confirmation that my birth families are indeed my genetic families. I have never been able to access my original birth certificate because the state where I was born (not Connecticut) still keeps them sealed. All these years I basically knew that these were my birth relatives, but the DNA proves it objectively. That objective proof is extremely meaningful to me, but if my original birth certificate was available I would have had that assurance decades ago.

Adoptees should not be denied the truth of their origins: it is OUR OWN information. Please support Senate Bill 113.

Thank you,

Elsa Peterson Obuchowski

Norwalk, CT

