

Greetings to all who will be voting on SB113,

I am a psychologist in Wilton, CT (living in Redding, CT) who has worked with many adoptees and adoptive parents over the past thirty years, and I am asking you to please support and pass SB113, a bill which will allow adoptees to obtain vital information regarding their health and birth circumstances. In my consulting room I have worked with children who went through an open adoption system and have communicated with their biological parent(s), or not, depending on their preference. In these situations, the children have been able to speak with me about this with maturity and confidence, and to discuss concerns and issues regarding their adoption at an earlier age with relative comfort and the support of their legal parents. Those children, for whom their background is hidden, secretive, and locked up, do not fare as well. There is mystery, fear, anxiety, and, most importantly, self-doubt and insecurity when a child doesn't understand the circumstances of their birth, feeling somehow inferior or unloved because they were "given up," even when placed in a loving and supportive adoptive situation.

I have also had several friends who have been adopted, most who have had no ability to receive information from their adoption agency because of legal blockages or simply the closing of facilities and disappearing of documents. As I friend I have listened to their stories, including the belief, inculcated by adoptive parents, that it isn't at all necessary to find out birth information, and the resulting guilt and conflict between loyalty to the parents that raised them and a deeper need for knowledge of their original identity. Especially in an age of DNA discovery, it is past time for a bill such as SB113 be passed.

This law is also helpful for those who have made the agonizing decision to put their child up for adoption due to unfortunate, often painful circumstances where adoption seems the best choice. I have sat with women in this situation who have agonized for years in sadness and guilt, for them to have some ability for communication or at least receive information about these babies so they don't have to wonder what happened to their child.

This bill is humane, as well as practical. It honors, assists and reassures all who are concerned in the difficult situation of adoption which is so painful for many women (and men) and so life-enhancing and happy for so many others. It is time.

Sincerely,

Ann C. Reeves, Psy.D.
Licensed Psychologist
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