



State of Connecticut
House of Representatives

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February 21, 2020

Senator Steve Cassano, Chair
Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Chair
Planning and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

**Testimony in support raised SB 113 an act concerning access to original birth certificates
by adult adopted persons**

To the Chairs, Vice Chairs and Ranking Members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support

My name is Kim Rose, State Representative from the 118th District of Milford, and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 972 An Act Concerning Access to Original Birth Records by Adult Adopted Persons.

Ancestry, My Heritage, and 23andMe have sold millions of DNA kits over the past several years. Adoptees are simply looking for answers. I know firsthand, because my mother was adopted. I grew up as an only child always dreaming of a big family. After finding out my mother had been adopted, I was able to obtain her original birth certificate. Her mother was still alive and we were able to contact her. She passed away in September of 2017. Her biological father was unknown. Through DNA I was stunned to find out that MY father, was not my biological father. With further research, I was able to determine who my biological father was, and I am delighted to have also found out that I now have a half brother and half sister and a huge extended family. My brother lives in Seymour. We talk several times a day and often get together. Even though I am older, he calls me kiddo. It was, although painful at points, a dream come true. If I had not had access to my mother's birth certificate, I may never have been able to find the truth.

There are many Facebook groups and hundreds of thousands of adult adoptees now searching for their biological parents. Everyone's story does not have a happy ending such as mine, and the adoptees are extremely sensitive to that. No matter what, adoptees deserve to know the truth. It's

their basic human right to know where they came from, what health issues may run in the family, and to welcome a reunion.

Passing this bill would provide equal protection under the law and end discrimination. Adopted persons should be treated fairly and consistently, and rules should apply to them uniformly, like any other ordinary person who can obtain his 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. Why should a state official be able to view the birth certificate, but the adoptee cannot? On what basis does the state rely on an agency to possess a document containing information about a citizen that he cannot access?

This bill would also affirm a human and civil right. It is a basic human and civil right for every person to know his biological origins. Birth mothers were not promised confidentiality and were advised that their identity could be obtained by their adult offspring but would not be available to the public.

This bill evolves policy to update the law and improve efficiency. State policy has shifted gradually over the years as society's understanding of adoption and its impact has changed. The bill merely implements the natural evolution of the law, reflecting our modern, enlightened understanding of adoption policies, changes in society and technology and their impact over time. It would streamline government efficiency, provide transparency, and enhance regulatory consistency.

This bill protects the health of adoptees and their children. It would facilitate adoptees' access to medical health history information, which they cannot readily access like non-adoptees. This bill reflects recent experience and authority. It would restore a right that existed until 1975 for all adult adoptees in Connecticut, when a floor amendment approved without notice or hearing sealed birth records for adoptees. Access was once the law.

Thank you for your time in considering this valuable legislation, I am happy to address any questions and discuss this topic further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Rose". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kim Rose
State Representative
118th District, Milford