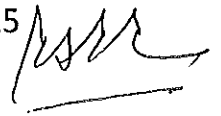


TO: CT Legislature

FROM: Randi Rubin Rodriguez- 142 Judwin Ave., New Haven, CT 06515

RE: S.B. 113

DATE: Feb. 21, 2020



Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and submit my testimony

in SUPPORT of S.B. 113.

I speak to you as an adoptive Mother of two children, former foster Mother of over 40 children in CT and as a Child Welfare professional, having co-founded the 'r kids Family Center.

However, unlike years past, today I speak as a sister, who has just met her older sister within the past 8 wks, thru 23 and Me! With their permission I would like to share with you how this all developed-

Hi Randi, It's Irna. How are you? Are you free to talk? Everything is fine- nothing wrong. Just a question that arose from my 23and Me DNA test. I mean family connections.

Randi: Watching the debate- can we talk at 11? Have you come across my half-sister? I never have.

Irna: I think so- I received a notice from 23and Me ". I think we are first cousins- Does the name Ely Rubin mean anything to you?"

Since that time, I have unraveled years of mythology for both my new sister, 3 years older and myself.

This is the new world of DNA and matching and contacts.

CT can do better!

Because all of our parents are deceased and all of their siblings are deceased, we cannot fill in so many blanks of our lives. It is as if we both have suffered amnesia and there is nothing there.

Your support of S.B. 113 provides our CT adult adoptees their entitled right to know the very popular children's book question- "Are You My Mother? And what about my Father? The right that every other child born in CT has.

It affords a dignified way for birth parents to re-connect with their long- lost children, most of whom were expecting to make contact with their children when they turned 18.

I have witnessed time and time again birthparents who have relinquished their children and it is the most difficult, most loving, most self-sacrificing act most can do for their children. To know that their children who they lost are well, are stable and doing ok is critical to their sense of being.

For the adult adoptee, to know who your parents were/are, fills a major gap in one's identity; answers questions of self- authenticity and also provides the sometimes sorely needed life sustaining medical history and potential organ donors our CT adult adoptees cannot have access to under the current laws of our state.

CT prides itself in being a leader in this country.

Please follow the states who have enacted this legislation and vote to SUPPORT S.B. 113.

Thank you for your service and commitment to the residents of CT and the many hours you devote to improving the quality of our lives.

Please add the needs of CT Adult adoptees to your efforts and

VOTE YES to S.B. 113

Respectfully,  
Gardie Rubin Rodriguez, MA