

My Name is Daniel Stedfast and I am an adoptee, born in Hartford Connecticut in 1953. I have spent my adult life seeking information that is readily available to those that were not adopted. In 1997 I developed a hereditary form of cancer. Had I known my medical history I may have caught this earlier. I now have diabetes (also hereditary). An original birth certificate would have saved years in my search for answers. DNA testing provided clues that led me to find two brothers and a sister; unfortunately, my mother passed away ten months before we found her. I have four children and three grandchildren. I want to provide as much medical history to them as is possible. My newfound siblings have given me a lot of information relative to my maternal side, but I have nothing yet from my paternal side. This bill is important but not just to adoptees. The family of an adopted person feels the impact of "not knowing" just as strongly. Knowing there is information about me on file that I am not entitled to is not right in America. I and my entire family ask you to pass SB 113. I can also tell you my biological siblings support my right to know. We have missed many decades of time together that cannot be replaced. As an older adoptee (67 in just a couple of weeks), I question why I am further discriminated against, since those whose adoption was finalized after 1983 have the right to their birth certificate while I do not. Are we not all equals? This week I was diagnosed with prostate cancer (another hereditary disease) that may have been passed down from my biological and unknown father. Please do the right thing and pass this bill for all of those like me and my family.

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