

Hello:

I'm a New York-born adoptee who lives in Old Greenwich. I'm writing to urge you to support SB 113 so that all adopted people in Connecticut can have access to their original birth certificates.

Just a few weeks ago, thanks to a change in the New York law, I was finally able to get a copy of my original birth certificate. I'm 54 years old. Being able to open that envelope after all these years and have that document -- the first piece of paper acknowledging me -- with its accurate information about me and my origins was everything. Finally, I know where I was born and who delivered me. My birth mother's name is there in black and white rather than hidden in the shadows of non-identifying information.

I am a real live girl, after all, not some secret to be hidden in a family closet.

Shown side by side, my original and revised birth certificates offer a stark look at the cognitive dissonance too many adoptees feel about their status and identity. Changing outdated states laws can help change that. Because it provides valuable clues to our ethnicity and can lead to finding life-saving medical information, an original birth certificate can help us make sense of who we are and where we come from.

Connecticut made great strides in this regard a few years ago by providing access to some adoptees. Now it's time to finish the job. In this information age, it's untenable to keep marginalize adoptees the way outdated laws do. Please enact SB 113.

Best,

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