

Support for SB 113

I write to request your support of SB 113 which will provide adult adoptees born before October 1, 1983 with the human right to access their original birth certificates.

I am an adult adoptee who has grappled with the challenges of a closed adoption and state-sealed records. This archaic system left me with a deep and physical sense of unmooring and anxiety that began to resolve after I obtained my original birth certificate and the identities of my biological family. This is a generational loss - my adult children felt it too, and likewise benefitted from knowledge of where they came from. They are able to pass this sense of blood family to their own children, rather than the emptiness of not-knowing.

Adoptees and our descendants have an inherent right to know our roots and our biological identity. Connecticut has passed progressive legislation that grants equal rights to almost all of its adoptees – it's time to finish the job.

What happens in one state affects legislation in other states, and adoptees, like other citizens, often relocate from the state in which their adoption occurred. I am raising my voice in support of SB 113 because the original birth certificate belongs to the adoptee, not to the state. Once an adoptee is 18 years old the state has no further interest in the adoption and should therefore step aside.

Adopted citizens deserve to have access to the truth of their origins in the same way that non-adopted people do.

I urge you to vigorously support SB 113 and finally grant all Connecticut adoptees access to their original birth certificates; it is a fundamental human right.

With respect, Theresa Vitt