



February 19, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Cassano, Representative McCarthy Vahey, and Distinguished Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Planning & Development Committee,

Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, Inc. **supports Senate Bill 113**, An Act Concerning Adult Adoptees' Access To Original Birth Records. We believe that all persons have the right to know their family history and we fully support adult adopted persons having access to their Original Birth Certificates. Adopted persons should be treated with equality and have access to the government document that records their birth; the same right afforded to all other citizens of Connecticut.

The concern that this bill could cause birth mothers to lose privacy is erroneous. With more than sixteen million people in direct-to-consumer genetic databases, nearly every American citizen can be identified. Adopted individuals frequently turn to DNA testing to identify birth parents when original birth certificates are not available. The original certificate of birth usually provides accurate direct evidence as to the mother's identity and eliminates the involvement of other parties, thereby affording a higher level of privacy.

In 2014, Connecticut granted original birth certificate access to any Connecticut adult whose adoption was finalized after October 1, 1983. However, it left behind all persons who were adopted in the state of Connecticut prior to October 1, 1983. Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, Inc. supports access for all adults who were adopted in Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

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