

Planning and Development Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6105

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES BY

Title: ADULT ADOPTED PERSONS.

Vote Date: 3/2/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/3/2021

File No.: 49

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

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Rep. Kate Farrar, 20th Dist.
Rep. Mary M. Mushinsky, 85th Dist.
Rep Christine Palm, 36th Dist.
Rep Aimee Berger Girvalo, 111th Dist.
Sen Rick Lopes, 6th Dist.
Rep. John K. Hampton, 16th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To grant access to original birth records to all adopted persons eighteen years of age or older who were born in Connecticut regardless of date of birth.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

N/A

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Paul Acker – supports the bill because it answers common questions of adoptees later in life.

Elizabeth Adams, LCSW – supports the bill because it lessens the stigma of adoption.

Mark H. Bernacki, New Britain Town & City Clerk and Legislative Chair of Connecticut Town Clerks Association – supports the bill and also states that this bill won't affect the original town records.

Mary Boo, Executive Director of NACAC – supports the bill because the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) believe that every adopted person has the right to receive information about their own birth.

Karen Caffrey, Co-President of Access Connecticut, Now, Inc. – supports the bill because it provides family medical history, ability to know about and participate in their biological heritage, family history, the ability to prove their heritage to establish citizenship in different countries, and eases the psychological toll of being discriminated against.

Emily Canibano – supports the bill because it answers questions about family history.

Catholic Mothers for Truth and Transparency – supports the bill because all adult adopted persons should be treated equally under the law.

Andrew M. Cislo, PhD – supports the bill because he believes that having a birth certificate is a birthright.

Connecticut State Medical Society – supports the bill because it provides adoptee with a proper family medical history.

Connecticut Chapter, National Organization for Women – support the bill because it puts women as a part of an oppressive system which denies women choice over their right to parent

Margaret Doherty, Executive Director of Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families – supports the bill because they support the equity of rights for all adopted adults to be able to access their original birth certificates.

Beth Finchler – supports the bill because she finds it very important for people to know their family origins and family medical history.

Kathy Flaherty - supports the bill because it provides an easier way to find members of their birth family.

Carolyn Goodridge – supports the bill because she claims that it is a basic human right to know their own identity.

Kimberly Kerstetter – supports the bill because a birth certificate answers countless questions of adult adoptees.

Carrie Koffman- supports this bill because she believes everyone should know where they come from and their personal family's entire history.

Mandy Krahenbuhl, President, Concerned United Birthparents, Inc. – supports the bill because she claims that the vast majority of birthparents want to be reunited with their adult children and that an adult adoptee's right to their birth certificate is absolute.

Stephen McNally- supports the bill because it gives adult adoptee's the opportunity to receive dual citizenship in certain situations.

Eilleen McQuade – supports the bill because as a birthmother, she doesn't want to deprive her birth child of important family information.

Tim Monti-Wohlpert- supports the bill because it removes date- based restrictions, restores unrestricted access, allow for non-binding contact preferences.

Susan Myers, President, Connecticut Council on Adoption – supports this bill because it restores the right of adopted persons to receive their original birth certificates.

Stephen Wanczyk- Karp, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers- supports this bill because of the psychological toll of not knowing family medical history can be immensely stressful for adult adoptees.

Elizabeth J Samuels, Professor of Law Emeritus, University of Baltimore School of Law- supports this bill because there is not guaranteed anonymity for birth parents, at the time birth parents didn't get the choice to surrender documents, birth mothers may not want complete anonymity any more, records were closed to protect adoptive families, and restoring access for adoptee's has proved beneficial in the past.

Desiree Stephens- supports this bill because she believes that it is a human and civil right for every person to know their biological origins and also states that both adoptee's and non-adoptee's deserve equal protection under the law.

Karen Wilson-Buterbaugh, Founder, Baby Scoop Era Research Initiative- supports this because of the toll that it takes on the adoptees.

Cynthia Wolfe-Boynton, President, Connecticut NOW – supports this because she believes that currently the withholding of documents for the birth mother's "protection" puts women in place as a part of an oppressive system.

Women's Organizations – support this bill because the current law was an effort to silence and marginalize women, instead of what it claimed to be doing which was protecting them.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Tiffany Tubby- opposes this bill because she claims birth mothers were guaranteed anonymity and the possibility that this can bring up traumatic experiences from birth mother's pasts.

Deacon David Reynolds, Associate Director for Public Policy, Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference – opposes this bill because it would deny the privacy and confidentiality expected and it can also damage current families.

Reported by: Christopher Peritore

Date: 3/15/2021