

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN - HEARING ON BILL SB296 - 3/6/2012

My name is Carol Hudak. I am speaking in favor of SB296.

I am an adoptee.

I liken being adopted to being in the Witness Protection Program. Regardless of how loving your adoptive parents were, this is not a substitute for the core need of knowing your blood identity. Your roots, your mirrors, your ancestry; the mother and father whose blood flows in your veins. All of my life I have felt a piece of me was missing; that I had no foundation; that I was on the outside looking in.

Try this: leave here tonight and pull into a stranger's yard. Knock on the door and say, 'Hi, I'm home.' Then see how odd it feels to be there. You are not home, and you know it.

Wanting to know who gave me birth does not detract from my love for my adoptive mother. I nursed her night and day for the last 3 1/2 years of her life. She was in a wheelchair, couldn't speak and had dementia. My adoptive mother wanted me to find my birth family. 3 years ago I did just that.

I met my full birth sister at Catholic Charities. The social worker, a total stranger, held our birth file and said, *"I'm sorry, but I cannot tell you who you are."*

"WHAT???" But you're a stranger!"

Yes, the State of CT. has legally allowed total strangers to know our identities and medical history, but will not allow us to know!
How can this be legal?????

My experience at Catholic Charities was one of the most demeaning experiences of my life. I felt like a 4 year old who was being punished.

To anyone opposing SB296 on religious grounds, I very respectfully point out that the Book of Matthew, Chapter One, lists the "Genealogy of Jesus Christ;" and that Blood is a theme of critical importance in both Old and New Testaments.

If you believe we will force ourselves on our birth mothers, you are very wrong. Many adult adoptees still bear the wounds of abandonment, and strongly fear being rejected, yet again.

Many adoptees will only want to know their real names. Wanting to know our real, blood identities is natural and normal. Unnatural, un-normal and discriminatory, is the present law.

Kindly restore to us the right to know, *who we are*.

Thank you.

Carol A. Hudak