



## HB 6105 - Adoptee Birth Certificate Bill

- **HB 6105 is restoring a right adult adoptees already had before 1975. It doesn't create a new right.**
  - The *youngest* adopted person affected would be 37 years old. Adults can handle their affairs without government interference.
  - If the law is a promise, the law actually promised adoptees their original birth certificates before 1975 and that promise should be honored.
  - **A private agency couldn't promise the state won't issue a birth certificate prior to 1975 since the law was such that all adoptees had access. Only one agency (Catholic Charities) opposes this bill, citing they made undocumented, verbal agreements with birthmothers.**
  - Adoption agencies don't make laws, legislators do.
- Ends an era of shame and stigma perpetuated *against* women - post WW2 to 1983 era.
- Treats women as powerful adults they are.
- Restores equality and dignity to those whose rights were taken away without their consent or legal representation.
- We as a society have recognized professionally that secrecy is damaging to all involved
- More private than DNA which publicly outs birthmothers to other family members.
- Since 1987, the law gives adoptees the right to their original birth certificate when the birth parent dies. HB 6105 doesn't change "if" an adoptee gets their birth certificate, it only changes the "when."
- In the experience of other states only 1 out of every 2000 birthmothers refuse contact.
- Current medical histories are **NOT** available to adoptees unless the birth parent can be found and agrees to provide it after an expensive and time consuming search.
- 83% of registered CT voters support adult adoptee access to their original birth certificates. (Source: *The Connecticut Adoption Survey*: conducted by the Center for Survey Research & Analysis at the University of Connecticut in conjunction with the Connecticut Council on Adoption Oct. 2007)

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Organizations that support HB 6105:

- The Village For Families & Children - CT's oldest social service adoption agency
- Connecticut Council on Adoption (CCA)
- Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families (CAFAF)
- A coalition\* of 18 Connecticut-based Pro-Women Organizations including CT-Chapter of National Organization of Women (CT-NOW) and Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) and The Connecticut Women's Consortium
- Adoptee Rights Law Center/Adoptees United
- American Adoption Congress
- National Center on Adoption and Permanency
- Catholic Mothers for Truth & Transparency
- Concerned United Birthparents (CUB) - the only national birth parent association
- Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA) - an organization of attorneys dedicated to the competent and ethical practice of adoption law
- Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS)
- Connecticut Chapter - National Association of Social Workers (NASW-CT)
- Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council
- Connecticut Town Clerks Association
- Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ

\*Complete list (coalition of CT based pro-women organizations):

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| ○ Access Connecticut                                    | ○ National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter   |
| ○ Action Together CT                                    | ○ National Organization for Women, Connecticut Chapter (NOW-CT) |
| ○ Catholic Mothers for Truth & Transparency             | ○ The Connecticut Women's Consortium                            |
| ○ Charter Oak Cultural Center                           | ○ True Colors   |
| ○ Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ | ○ West Haven Progressive Action Network                         |
| ○ Connecticut Council on Adoption                       | ○ Women's March Connecticut Chapter                             |
| ○ Connecticut Indivisible                               | ○ Women Against Mass Incarceration                              |
| ○ Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) | ○ YWCA Greenwich  |
| ○ Fairfield Standing United                             | ○ YWCA Hartford Region  |
| ○ ForwardCT   |   |