

June 7, 2013

The Honorable Katharine M. Watson
Chair, Committee on Children & Youth
41A East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2144

Gretchen A. Berman Reed
114 E. Dawes Avenue
Somers Point, NJ 08244
Adopted Philadelphia, PA

RE: HB 162 – Adoptee Access to Birth Certificate

Dear Rep. Watson:

I am an adult, adopted as a child born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1941. I am writing in support of HB 162.

There is not a day goes by that I don't think how comforting it would be to have access to my original birth certificate and information. June 26th, is my birthday and I gave birth to our son on June 26 (my birthday), do I really know that is the true date "no" I do not.

Every time I go to the doctor, I cannot give a health history to pass down to my daughter, son, three granddaughters and one grandson. Where did my Asthma and the Cancer originate, our son was diagnosed with a form of Scleroderma.?

In the year 2013, I believe we are the only people that have not had access to their true identity. Our birth mothers and birth fathers had sex before marriage and got caught at it, unlike now people are doing the same thing but not having a child as a result of this act nearly as often. So, why are the children who are now adults being punished by withholding information?

My husband and I were search assistants for ALMA for five years. We never met any Adoptees who were vindictive towards their birth parents; all that we want is to know the identity of our parents.

Please help us, and if you can, ask your constituents to support HB162 and ask that it be voted out of Committee and send it to the full House of Representatives for a vote.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Berman Reed