

Carolyn Hoard

From: paul keeley <gpaulkeeley@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2013 11:02 PM
To: Carolyn Hoard
Subject: Hi Carolyn. Letter in support of HB 162

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

RE: HB 162 – Adoptee Access to Birth Certificate

Dear Rep. Watson:

I am an adopted person born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in July 1966. I was relinquished for adoption shortly after my birth. . I am writing in support of HB 162.

For many years I was unable to obtain information about my adoption from Catholic Charities in Philadelphia or from the Pennsylvania Bureau of vital records and I requested but was denied my original birth certificate. I am now reunited with my birth family since 2008, first with my birth mother. I am also reunited with my birth father and a half brother and a half sister. I have a loving relationship with all which continues to grow and is cherished by each of us.

I was born in Pennsylvania and it is my right as a citizen of this State to have my original birth certificate. Pennsylvania law discriminates against adopted person by disallowing us to exercise that right. This is also a right to know that part of me which has been locked in secrecy. Medical history, personal history, social history of my birth families has been denied to me. Honorable members of the legislature in my home state of Pennsylvania, I ask for your support of HB 162. This bill is about correcting inequities in PA law and allowing equal treatment to adopted as well as non-adopted persons. All people have a right to their original birth certificate and a right to their identity. I ask that HB 162 be voted out of Committee and sent to the full House of Representatives for a vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George Paul Keeley, Jr.
Los Angeles, California