



Concerned United Birth Parents, Inc.
P.O. Box 703486
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March 1, 2019

The Honorable Velmanette Montgomery
New York State Senate
915 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable David I. Weprin
New York Assembly
526 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

RE: New York S3419/A5494

Dear Assembly Member Weprin and Senator Montgomery:

I am the president of the Board of Directors of Concerned United Birth Parents (CUB), the only national organization focused on birthparents— their experiences, healing, and wisdom. CUB serves all those touched by adoption and all who are concerned about adoption issues.

I write on behalf of the Board of Directors to express CUB's support for S3419/A5494, bills that you have introduced that would restore a right all New York adult adoptees should have: unrestricted access to their own original birth records upon request.

CUB supports the unrestricted access of adopted people to their original birth records. Access to the truth about one's identity and origins is a fundamental human right.

The myth of confidentiality is often used to oppose open records, but birthparents were never promised such secrecy and do not want it. The majority of birthparents want to be reunited with their children, but in the end, this is not relevant. Equal access to vital statistics and court files and the wish to search for one's birthparents are completely separate issues. An adoptee's decision to search is independent of the right to obtain vital statistics and court files that concern himself or herself.

In today's environment, most adoptions are identified. Since everyone involved in the adoption knows the facts about who the birthparents are, there is no reason for the state to conceal the truth in perpetuity.

Globally, many countries have chosen not to engage in the falsification and sealing of birth certificates. The practice of falsifying birth certificates did not begin until the

1930s in America. America must join the ranks of civilized nations and end this antiquated remnant of a shame-based culture.

CUB encourages you and your colleagues to enact A5494/S3419 so that adult adoptees can again have access to important information about their own birth families. It's time to get it right. It's time to make it equal in New York.

Best regards,

Mandy Krahenbuhl
President
Concerned United Birthparents, Inc.