



**Connecticut Conference  
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-2281

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 5408 :An Act Concerning Access to Original Birth  
Records By Adult Adopted Persons  
Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate  
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ  
March 8, 2018**

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ and I am writing today in support of House Bill 5408 which would allow an individual adopted prior to October 1, 1983 and his or her adult child or grandchild to obtain an uncertified copy of their original certificate of birth.

I am writing on behalf of the 237 congregations and more than 67,500 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. In 2015 the assembled delegates and ministers of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ met and voted on a Resolution for the right of all adult adoptees to access their original birth certificates and true and accurate information about their origins.

This Resolution acknowledges original birth certificate access is a matter of equal justice, equal civil rights and equal standing for adult adoptees who have the need to know their human story, original identity and right to their medical histories and genetic information.

All of God's children deserve access to their original birth certificate so they can gain true and accurate information about their biological origins and gain further knowledge about their ancestry and ethnicity. We support adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates to gain fuller knowledge of their medical histories and genetic information in order to make decisions about their health care throughout their lives, including care to save their lives.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of House Bill 5408: to allow an individual adopted prior to October 1, 1983 and his of her adult child or grandchild to obtain an uncertified copy of their original certificate of birth.

Blessings,  
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 **God is still speaking,**

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