



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

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Testimony in Support of S.B. 113:

An Act Concerning Access to Original Birth Certificates By Adult Adopted Persons

Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ

February 19, 2020

Senator Cassano, Representative McCarthy Vahey and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 113 to grant access to original birth certificates to all adopted persons eighteen years of age or older who were born in Connecticut regardless of date of birth.

I am writing on behalf of the 614 congregations and more than 120,000 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 Senate Bill 113.

Blessings,
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