

Attempts at scare tactics which claim that giving adult adoptees access to their original unaltered, unfalsified birth certificates would lead to young pregnant women choosing abortion over adoptions have absolutely no basis in fact. Kansas and Alaska, which have never had sealed records, have lower abortion rates than the nation as a whole. Worldwide, abortion rates are lower in countries which have open records.

As long as the sealed records system continues to exist an aura of shame will ~~be~~ cling to adoption. The adopted citizens of PA deserve better than this. We are not talking about mandating open adoption, or opening adoption records to the general public. We are not talking about adopted children. We are talking about restoring the rights of adult, tax-paying, voting citizens, rights which have been denied us for far too long.  
Thank you.

Cindy Bertrand Holub  
6119 Mc Callum St  
Phila Pa 19144  
215-843-6220

Sub'd

My name is Cindy Bertrand Holub and I am the PA director of Bastard Nation, a nationwide adoptees' civil rights group. I am here to urge you to vote against HB 1672, the Uniform Adoption Act, which among other things would seal adoption records for 99 years and criminalize searching for one's birth relatives. I believe that openness should be fostered in adoption rather than the secrets and lies of the past.

In chap 26,  
section  
2602  
d

In chap. 27,  
section  
2706  
b

I believe it is an outrage against the rights of an entire class of citizens for us to be denied access to the records of our birth solely due to our adoptive status. The Sixth Circuit Court in the TN open records case, Doe v. Sundquist, has ruled that the right to privacy does not extend to birthparent anonymity, and ~~that~~ has been upheld in this ruling by the Supreme Court. Birth is a shared event, the records of which belong as surely to the one who is born as to the one who gives birth. Relinquishment papers contain no promise of confidentiality, and to the extent that such a promise was "implied," it is untenable, as one adult citizen may not deprive another of his or her rights in the name of privacy.

I was an infant when these promises and contracts concerning my life were made; I had no part in them and I do not consider myself bound by them.