

Written-only testimony for HB2617

The availability of records to adoptees who knew their birth parent(s) or grandparents (in the case of a death) should be a statutory right in the State of Kansas.

A cousin of mine lost her father in a car accident when she was very young. Subsequently, her mother remarried and her step-father adopted her. This bill will allow her access to her deceased biological father's vital records, whereas at this time they can be denied her.

Kansans have an inherent interest in their heritage as Kansans and as Americans. Lineage societies require that you provide proof of a biological relationship to a specific person that served in a war, or was in America at a certain time, etc. Denying adoptees who had a relationship with their birth parents, and were subsequently adopted due to divorce or death of a parent can destroy their ability to join a group that does a great benefit for preserving our history. These groups also promote American patriotism, provide a sense of belonging, and nurture life-long friendships.

I hope you will vote yes on HB2617 and show that you support adoptees in Kansas.

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