

SKYLINE

Feigenholtz helps adoptees open past

Letter to the editor

11/02/2011 10:00 PM

I have always believed that adopted children were very special to God, as he gave us two loving mothers. One gave us life and the other nurtured us, loved us like no other and shaped us. We would not be who we are today without both of these angels.

My adoption story is a little different in that I know who my birth mother is and have been reunited with all of my biological family. Even knowing this, I cannot have access to my original birth certificate, a document that non-adoptees take for granted but that answers so many questions about where we came from.

Thankfully, State Representative Sara Feigenholtz, herself an adoptee, passed a law so that adult adoptees can have the chance to access a copy of their original birth certificate. The governor signed this law a year ago, giving adopted people like Rep. Feigenholtz and myself the most priceless gift of all: opening a door of knowledge that had been closed to us our entire lives.

This law helps de-stigmatize adoption and gives all adoptees in Illinois their basic right to know who they are and where they came from. Over 250,000 adopted persons from Illinois are thankful for this.

I know who my birth parents are, but when this law takes effect on Nov. 15 I will apply to get my birth certificate.

You know why? Because I can.

Dana E. Samuelson