

# News...

*...from the Illinois House of Representatives*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 3, 2011

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

State Representative Sara Feigenholtz  
(773) 296-4141

## **Rep. Feigenholtz Invites Adoptees to Celebrate New Law, Apply for Original Birth Certificates**

**CHICAGO** – A law passed in 2010 will allow adopted persons born in Illinois to begin applying for copies of their original birth certificates on November 15, 2011. In anticipation of this historic day, State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), an adoptee and the law’s chief sponsor, is hosting an open house on Monday, November 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event will be held at Leona’s located at 3215 North Sheffield in Lakeview. Refreshments will be served.

Public Act 96-0895 allows Feigenholtz and an estimated 250,000 adopted persons born in Illinois to apply for a copy of their original birth certificates. The open house is an opportunity for adoptees to meet each other and complete their application forms. On November 15, Feigenholtz is traveling to Springfield to hand-deliver the applications completed at the open house.

“Adopted persons born prior to 1946 have been able to apply for their original birth certificate since May 2010,” said Feigenholtz. “On November 15, those of us born after January 1, 1946 will be able to start applying by sending in an application form, a copy of a photo ID, and \$15. I’m looking forward to filling out my application on the 14<sup>th</sup> along with other Illinois-born adoptees, their friends and families, and everyone who worked to pass this law.”

In addition, Feigenholtz welcomes documentarian and adoptee Jean Strauss, whose work focuses on issues in adoption and, in particular, the unsealing of birth records. This is Strauss’ second trip to Illinois; last year, she interviewed state lawmakers and adoptees on the change in the law. Those who attend the open house will also have the unique opportunity to be interviewed by Strauss, whose films have been used as a tool to lobby legislators in other states to pass similar legislation.

“No one who attends this open house is required to participate in Jean’s filming,” Feigenholtz explains. “No one will be asked to appear on camera if they don’t want to and nothing will be filmed without their full consent. We simply want for adoptees to share this extraordinary moment together, celebrate, and get these applications filled out. We have waited a lifetime for this day.”

Attendees who will be applying for a copy of their original birth certificates should bring government-issued photo identification and a check or money order for \$15 made out to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

More information on Public Act 96-0895 can be found at [www.NewIllinoisAdoptionLaw.com](http://www.NewIllinoisAdoptionLaw.com). To RSVP or for more information on this event or the change in the law, contact Feigenholtz’s constituent services office at (773) 296-4141 or [sara@staterepsara.com](mailto:sara@staterepsara.com).

###