

Editor's Notes:

A full-length video of Monday's celebratory event is available at the following link:

<http://Media2.pahousegop.com/PreviewMedia.aspx?FileID=18939>

Attachment 1: Several Pennsylvania-born adoptees submitted quotes for media consideration. Most identifying information has been removed, per their request.

Attachment 1

"Over 40 years of searching finally ended for me. The copy of my birth record arrived in my mailbox on my 71st birthday." (Dennis A. – North Carolina)

"I am thankful I was given an opportunity to obtain a non-certified copy of my original birth record, although a little too late as my birth mother had passed in 2009." (Kathy A.)

"I never dreamed it would ever be possible to know who my biological parents were. Moving forward we are beginning to build relationships that will hopefully last the rest of our lives and I am forever grateful." (Angela B. – Maryland)

"It pulled everything together. I still have some questions, but it is well with my soul." (Beth)

"It gave a glowing feeling knowing that I might someday meet or communicate with a relative. It has happened and we both are so grateful." (Mike B. – New York)

"I have been able to connect with my birth mother's family and in doing so learn about my genetic ancestry. This is a fantastic gift and long overdue." (David C.)

"My birth mother died at 48 from adenocarcinoma. This information is of great benefit for me to share with my children. The benefit of being able to know your medical history is immeasurable." (Kathy C. – Pennsylvania)

"Thank you to my birth mother because I had great parents." (Marie C. – New Jersey)

"Now I know who I was, who my father was, and a confirmation of my birth date." (George D. – Pennsylvania)

"I am finally a real person." (Angela)

"It's about time! Adopted children are not second-class citizens. They deserve to know their heritage for many reasons. I am a proud adoptive mother of two children." (Virginia F. – Pennsylvania)

"I finally know who I look like, where I came from, my medical history, and the reason I was put up for adoption." (Liz)

"Closure is the first word that comes to mind, but seems like the end; however, it is the beginning." (Eugene G. – Pennsylvania)

"My search took 25 years. I was able to make contact with my half-brothers only to learn my biological mother had died just a month before at age 95. This was heartbreaking and could have been a very different outcome if the state had permitted me before." (Risa G. – California)

"I now know who I am and how I came to be. My mind is free of wondering." (Staci G. – Pennsylvania)

"I can learn about myself for the first time in my life." (James H. – Illinois)

“Thank you so much for all your hard work on this bill that finally acknowledges adopted ‘children’ as the adults they have become as being ‘created equal.’” (Linda H. – Pennsylvania)

“I have waited 79 years to obtain this information. I am extremely happy for all those people who have been in limbo for years.” (Mary Ann K. – Ohio)

“It is unique in ability to profoundly transform lives, shattering the subpar status surrounding adoptees born in our commonwealth. How refreshing to see a Pennsylvania law serve as a means to foster dignity, affirmation, and value. I now have answers to lifelong questions.” (Jessica M. – Pennsylvania)

“I exist!” (Lorna)

“At 77 years old, I finally know who I am, and that is totally liberating for me. I feel a calmness now that I have not felt for a very long time.” (Patricia M. – Virginia)

“Beyond thrilled to have finally received my long awaited original birth certificate.”  
(Mike P. – Pennsylvania)

“Life-changing and life-saving are appropriate words. There is a long, long line of breast cancer, lymphoma, and autoimmune diseases on my birth mother’s side.” (Nora P.)

“At age 50, finally being able to connect the dots; to actually see what my relatives look like; figure out where I come from as far as ancestry; to know my family medical history. This is a source of power over a spun web of fiction. In my case, the fiction was superb! My true identity.” (David R. – Pennsylvania)

“I felt something inside me unlock. I was suddenly connected to this piece of myself, my history, that I never before could access.” (Elizabeth R. – Colorado)

“This has meant a great deal to my father. Seeing names on the paper actually allows that somebody cared enough to give birth to him. At 90 years of age, I’m hoping that he will at least be able to talk with a few of the people who possibly knew his parents to get some insight and peace of his beginnings.” (Jean S. – Florida)

“I am grateful that I no longer live in the shadow of a past for which I had no responsibility.”  
(Scott R. – Ohio)

“I wish my birth mother was alive so I could thank her for having made the right choice in giving me up for adoption. I would tell her that two loving people adopted me and raised me well.”  
(Patti S. – Ohio)

“For the first time in almost 68 years, I know who I am and it’s hard to put into words how much this means to me.”  
(Edie W. – Delaware)

“It’s the beginning of my story.” (Carrie)