

Adoption

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SPRINGFIELD, IL (wsiu) - Adoptees want access to their original birth certificates and medical history, and they're close to winning it. Illinois lawmakers are advancing legislation to allow the information to be made available.

Gay Ellen Brown was born in Chicago and adopted by a New Jersey family. She told lawmakers they should go further to make adoption records and birth certificates completely open. She says she had to forgo medical testing that would have indicated her risk of cancer, because insurance wouldn't pay for it without a family medical history of the disease.

While some adoptees want all birth and adoption information open, committee members say this measure is a good compromise. It would allow access to the birth certificate and medical data if the birth parents agree.

Brown says the law discriminates against adoptees, and hopes Illinois lawmakers will eventually open all records. Opponents who want to keep those records sealed say the law made a promise to birth parents that the information would never be revealed. The measure now goes to the full Senate for final approval. © Copyright 2010, [wsiu](http://www.wsui.com)