

Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee Maryland General Assembly
House Office Building, Room 101 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Senator William C. Smith, Jr. Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Maryland
General Assembly Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB1039/SB0743

February 15, 2020

Dear Honorable Members of the Children & Family Law Committee:

My name is Melody Nordvik and I am a Seattle, WA born and adopted person. I have lived in Prince George's County Maryland for the last 48 years. I care deeply about changing our State's long standing discrimination against adoptees in accessing their Original Birth Certificate. A right should be inclusive to Everyone. Regardless of their adoptive status.

I ask each of you to consider what it's like to be a Maryland adoptee wanting to know your historical, genetic, and legal identity. How many of you OR your non-adopted constituents would agree to having to justify to judges, agency social workers, and vital records clerks why you have a desire to know your own origins?

I found my birth mother and extended family long before Washington State open records. I used DNA testing to learn the identity of my birth father. I can attest to you that there is no longer forever secret adoptions. But, I will also tell you that DNA search methodology left me in a position of divulging private and sensitive info to 2nd, 3rd and 4th cousins. It would have been much easier to protect my Fathers confidentiality by having direct contact with my birth father.

I respectfully ask members of this Committees vote Yes on the bills and recommend passage of HB1039 and SB0743.

Sincerely,

Melody Nordvik
13029 Martin Road
Brandywine, MD 20613 (301) 873-1291
mn125@aol.com