

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**

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Chairman Smith, and Members of the Committees:

I'd like to respectfully ask that members of the Committees vote Yes on the bills and recommend passage of HB1039 and SB0743.

As a child of adoption myself, I know first-hand the emotion that comes with not knowing one's origins. While I understand that in the past adoption has been shamed, it is celebrated now. And with DNA services (which is indeed how I was reunited with my own birth family), a preference of secrecy is simply a thing of the past. Most of us are able to track down our families without the state's engagement. However, obtaining access to one's own documents can have huge significance.

Though I know all of the content of my original birth certificate, and though I have the support of my adoptive and birth parents, because of where I was born and when, I'm still not entitled to it. For those of us with lost months or years before we were placed, this small thing has huge significance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Bonsall  
Amy.bonsall@yahoo.com