

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 was adopted in Montgomery County, Maryland when I was six years old in 1984. I was lucky that my adoptive parents wanted an older child and not a baby but it also meant that I was old enough to understand what was happening with my biological parents giving me up and the adoption process in general.

I've known and communicated with both of my biological parents for over 20 years but still the state of Maryland says that I don't have the right to my adoption records, specifically my original birth certificate. This document may seem like just a piece of paper, but it represents so much more to adoptees. These are the only records of my birth and circumstances surrounding my placement in foster care and subsequent adoption. My original birth certificate is the only indication of the name given to me at birth and the only documentation of who my biological parents were.

I respectfully ask that the members of the committees vote yes on these bills and recommend passing HB1039 and SB0743 and grant adoptees their basic civil right to know where they came from.

Thank you.

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