

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:

My best friend spent her whole life (50 years) with unanswered questions about her birth parents. She finally learned who they were, her history, and her original birth name. She met her birth parents. Got written permission from both mother and father to open her birth records. She was hit with a roadblock. Although they could tell her she had letters and photos in a file, she's not allowed to see them. Even though both parents have okayed it, she can't see papers that are her personal records. Hospital, foster-care, original unedited birth certificates, etc. Even Carfax allows you to look at a car's total history no matter where it was owned. A human life is not owned by its parents. Babies should not be sold to parents like merchandise, with promises of anonymity. Adoptees should have the right to know everything they can about their heritage, medical history, and birth.

With DNA testing, it's only a matter of time before nothing is secret and wouldn't it be better for things to be above board in the first place? Let's open the records please.

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