

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

Good day members:

I am an adoptee, born in 1965 and **adopted in Maryland in 1966**. My original birth certificate and adoption records are sealed, as per the norm at the time.

Adult adoptees should be provided the right to their original birth certificate as is every other person in Maryland. We are the only group of people who have been denied our own vital record. This is a basic civil right/equality issue. It is also an issue of identity. Shouldn't adoptees have the opportunity to embrace their identity just as every other person does? DNA testing has made the sealing of original birth certificates and adoption records unnecessary and obsolete. I personally tested with a well known company and within 6 months I had the names of both of my birth parents and have been in contact with them since.

I respectfully ask that members vote yes on the bills and recommend passage of HB1039 and SB0743.

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