

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 name is Kristen Lynn Kellick. I was born in Baltimore City on  
January 7, 1978; and I am an adopted person.  
I have always known I was adopted; it was never a secret in my family.  
I was a college student, uninterested in contact with my biological  
parents, when I first learned that adopted people have two birth  
certificates - and that in most states, adoptees do not access to our  
original birth certificates. Since then, I have firmly believed that  
adult adoptees should be able to request their original birth  
certificates. I believe this is a civil right, one that is only denied  
to adopted people based on our adopted status. Most would never  
consider denying any other adult access to their unaltered birth  
certificate. It seems to me that it is therefore a violation of  
adopted people's civil rights to deny us access to information about  
our origins, information that is freely available to all others born  
in the state of Maryland.

It was only a few years ago, when I became curious about my purported  
ethnic background, that I considered DNA testing - and before I went  
ahead with that option, I had to consider the possibility of inquiries  
from biological relatives who may or may not have known about my  
existence. While there was a significant up-front cost, I knew it was  
still less expensive, and more likely to provide me with answers, than  
attempting to navigate Maryland's legal system from out of state.

Thanks to AncestryDNA, I now know the names of my biological parents,  
my half-siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and many more. I  
have met both of my biological parents and their respective spouses;  
we correspond regularly and visit several times a year. I am proud of  
and love both my adoptive and biological families, but Maryland law  
does not allow me the dignity of equal access to my original birth  
certificate that truthfully states that I was born to my biological  
parents, and not to my adoptive parents. My having been adopted does  
not change where I came from.

With this letter, I ask that Maryland choose to follow in the steps of New York and grant all adult adoptees equal access to our original birth certificates, per HB1039 and SB0743. "Get It Right" and vote yes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kristen L. Kellick  
klkellick@gmail.com