

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Maryland HB1039 and SB0743. I am a current Maryland resident, but I was born in New York, which is a state that recently opened records. I am currently waiting to receive my OBC.

Two years ago I was unable to obtain it, just as Maryland adoptees are currently unable to. So I had to submit my DNA to 23&me, giving up significant privacy to obtain answers about my ethnicity and biological family. I was able to locate them through DNA, but my half brother was the person I connected to. Thankfully he had been told of my existence so it wasn't a total shock.

By the time I located my bio family, my bio father had already passed, so I was denied the opportunity to meet him. This would not have been the case if records were open. Adoptees deserve the same rights to know who we are and where we came from as anyone else. Please give Maryland adoptees the same right I now enjoy as a New York adoptee.

Thank you for your time.

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