

Hello!

My name is Stephanie Mendoza and I was born in Baltimore, MD, in July of 1961. Although that is not my original name, I have no access to that information because I was adopted under Maryland's strict closed adoption laws. Even though I am a law-abiding, productive citizen, who is nearing her retirement, I do not have the right to access basic information concerning my history.

Having pursued DNA testing, I did discover that genetically I am 50% Ashkenazi Jewish. I wish that I had this information as an 18 year-old. Now, I am struggling to learn all I can of my heritage. My 3 daughters have also been deprived of a truthful history.

In my opinion, as adults, we should have access to our legal paperwork. I urge you, please pass this legislation to give us (adoptees) the right to pursue our valid histories. Thank you.

Most sincerely,

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