

I support Maryland HB1039 and SB0743

This is my personal testimony. I am a birth parent who surrendered my son to adoption in 1969. I was never promised, nor did I ever want confidentiality. I searched and found my son in 1998 when he was 29 years old. My son and I are fortunate to know each other and our extended families, yet still he does not have access to his Original Birth Records. I believe he, and all adopted adults, should have the unconditional right to access their Original Birth Certificate and records.

I have been on the Board of Directors of Concerned United Birthparents, Inc. (CUB) since 2006. In my work with CUB over these years I have met over a thousand birth parents at our annual retreats and at our monthly support group meetings. None of them want to be kept a secret from their own children.

Knowing one's original identity is a right that all citizens have except those who were adopted. This creates two classes of people in our country. This is wrong and must be corrected. I urge you to support this bill that would allow adopted adults to have what is rightly theirs.

Sincerely,

Patty Collings  
patty.collings@gmail.com