

To: Maryland Legislature

I am writing this testimony for the bill HB1039 and SB0743.

I am an adoptee who was adopted officially in Baltimore Maryland in June of 1965. In the year 2000 I contacted the Baltimore Department of Social Services for my non-identifying information. I was informed that both of my birth parents are deceased. I was also informed that my half sister was not able to be found as well. I am now 55 years old. Neither birth or adopted parents are living. I feel that at this age I should have the right to know all information about my birth parents and any siblings or relatives that are still living. I know that when I was 18 I was not emotionally strong enough to have handled any information that was given to me. As a parent myself and not being able to share any medical information has been very difficult. I also feel that having my culture stripped from me has caused me severe mental anguish and loss. To be able to have my original birth certificate and to have all of the records of my adoption would be a gift that I have waited for over 30 years. I feel that Bill HB1039 and SB0743 is a right that adoptees should be allowed to have. Please consider what has been lost by each child that has been adopted and how these bills can give back to each of us.

Thank you in advance,

Mary Kellermann-Bryant

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