

SENATE BILL 0743
Adoption - Access to Original Birth Certificates

SUPPORT

Submitted by
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There are many reasons why I support SB 0743 that will provide adoptees access to their original birth certificates, should they need one or want one. Today there is a minority of the population that is denied that access and in my opinion that this denial is not only discriminatory, but is also a violation of human rights. The group being discriminated against is those who were born in Maryland and at some time later were legally adopted. Those individuals, the adoptees, had no voice nor counsel during the adoption process. Consequently, those persons born in Maryland and then later adopted have been denied knowledge of their true identity, heritage and even the basic information regarding their birth that we, the non-adopted, find not only interesting but important. Most adopted persons are denied any personal information about themselves, i.e., place of birth, time of birth, weight, length, and even their given name.

One might question why adoptees want their original birth certificates. Besides what is listed above, the main reason is because it is the official record of their birth, the beginning of their story, the validity of their identity. It is the record of who they were before adoption. It is theirs, not mine, not yours, and it should be theirs to have.

I urge you to carefully consider what we are asking for: equal access to original birth certificates for all persons born in Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

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