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COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
VICE CHAIR

JAMIE RASKIN  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

February 24, 2020

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing  
11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Jeffrey D. Waldstreicher  
Vice-Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing  
11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401


Dear Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher,

I write to express my strong support for Senate Bill 743, Adoption – Access to Birth and Adoption Records and Search, Contact, and Reunion Services, which has been introduced by Senator Susan C. Lee. This significant piece of legislation would provide all Maryland adult adoptees the right to obtain a copy of their original birth certificate and adoption records.

For many of my constituents who are adult adoptees, obtaining their original birth certificate is important to achieving a complete understanding of their identity, their history, their medical makeup, and their family tree. At the same time, this is also an important piece of legislation for constituents seeking answers regarding their citizenship. As it stands, constituents with pressing questions about their identity must seek a court order to obtain their original birth certificate, which can be a difficult and protracted process. In other cases, constituents resort to online DNA services that raise serious privacy concerns and do not provide the government documentation that is most important.

This was a problem I regretted leaving Annapolis before seeing a relevant solution emerge, so I respectfully ask that the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee give all due consideration to SB 743. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Martha Sanchez of my staff at 202-225-5341 or at [martha.sanchez@mail.house.gov](mailto:martha.sanchez@mail.house.gov).

Yours truly,

  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress