

My name is Richard Maio and I am here to testify in support of HB 1039 and SB 743. My wife, Anne, and I are the proud parents of an adopted daughter, Peggy, who was born in 1971 and came into our home when she was five and a half months old. We have a marvelous relationship with her, her husband and their two sons. Peggy (now 48) has always been a cherished gift in our life.

I support this bill because I believe adoptees should have the right to know their heritage through their birth certificate. The current law (passed in 2000) allows for an intermediary of the state to work toward contact for adoptions that took place prior to 1-1-2000. This is appropriate when each party wants contact. But if the adopted person wants contact and the mother does not want contact, then an adoptee, whose adoption was finalized prior to 2000, has no avenue available for seeking birth records.

Access to these birth records should be a right of ANY adopted person. In reading over the current proposed legislation I feel the age of consent should remain 21 and not be changed to 18 as indicated. I don't feel that an 18 year old should have access to this document because they are not mature enough to understand its content and implications that it contains.

Thank you for considering my opinion on these bills and I urge you to work toward the passage of this bill with the single change as noted.

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