

Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee Maryland General Assembly
House Office Building, Room 101 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

RE: HB1039/SB0743

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Chairman Smith:

Advocates have been working on equal rights legislation in Texas and across the country for more than 50 years, going back at least to Jean Paton and Florence Fisher, considered two of the founders of the adoptee rights movement in the early 1970s. Like other states, Texas sealed and made adoptees' original birth certificates unavailable in the 1950s as a way to protect the adoptee and the adoptive family from outside interference.

Despite recent efforts in the Texas legislature to restore a right that had existed since statehood—including nearly unanimous support for a measure four years ago—Texas failed again to advance a bill to the governor this past session.

Do not let Maryland fail adoptees as Texas did in 2019. Sincerely,

Adrienne Lusk
Austin, Texas
adrienne.lusk@gmail.com