

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, Chairman Smith, and Members of the Committees:

I'm writing to ask you to support HB1039 and SB0743, bills that will provide all Maryland adult adoptees the right to obtain a copy of their own original birth certificate without restrictions. I was born and adopted in the early 70's and endured a ten year battle for information about my own birth and adoption with the courts and the adoption agency and I can honestly say it was the most dehumanizing experience of my life. I'm a mother of four, a wife, and co-owner of a successful business. I've put three children through college, I vote and pay taxes yet I'm prohibited from obtaining a copy of my own true record of birth. I can't think of anything more infantilizing than the state treating one like a child who can't handle their own information.

I implore you to vote HB1039/SB0743 favorably out of Committee and once and for all, right a historic wrong and restore dignity to all Maryland adoptees. Adopted people deserve the same rights to know their origins, and access their own vital records, just like all other non adopted citizens in Maryland.

Respectfully,

Shawna Hodgson
Member, Board of Directors, American Adoption Congress Washington D.C.
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