

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 am writing in support of the bills HB1039 and SB0743 that are to be presented on February 20 and 25, 2020. **I was born in the state of Maryland in November of 1966** and given up for adoption and my records were sealed under the laws of the times. Unfortunately, all these years later these laws are still in existence in the state of Maryland. It is my belief that these laws are archaic and if I am to be completely honest, cruel. It is a basic human right to be allowed to know where one comes from. These laws originated with the purpose of protecting the privacy of adoptees and their adopted families but have with time been flipped in order to protect the birth mothers and fathers and their families. Through my readings and research, I have learned that in the majority of all cases the families of origin are more than willing to be contacted but are unable to be because of the current laws. While provisions have been made to assist in this dilemma (mutual consent registries and the like) it can be very expensive and is not enough. By supporting the bills being presented you will not only be affecting Maryland adoptees but adopted people across the nation by sending the message that Maryland will not discriminate against adoptees right to obtain their files and Original Birth Certificates.

With Appreciation,

Kristin Kjellson  
Aurora, Colorado  
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