

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 a Korean adoptee, long-time resident, and voter of Maryland writing in support of HB1039 and SB0743 because knowing where, when, and to whom you were born is vital information that should be available to every human being on this planet.

We say that the sins of the parents should not be visited on the children, but that is exactly what is done when adult adoptees are refused the right to know the very basics of their origins. We say that children should not be made to suffer for their parents' mistakes, but that is what happens when adopted children are denied the basic building blocks of identity.

By denying access to original birth certificates, the state of Maryland tells adult adoptees we are second class citizens, unequal in the eyes of state law. Please grant adoptees their basic civil rights and pass these important bills.

Alice Stephens
Silver Spring, Maryland
waqap@yahoo.com