

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 Maryland adoptee writing to ask you to support HB1039 and SB0743 that will provide all Maryland adult adoptees the right to obtain a copy of their original birth certificate and adoption records. It is paramount that these bills result in legislation that has NO exceptions and NO conditions. It is time for Maryland to end the secrecy imposed by the closed adoption system and put a stop to denying adult adoptees the right to know the truth of their origins.

Many opponents counter that birth mothers were promised secrecy, but this is not typically the case. My birth mother was not promised anything and I have not spoken with any birth parent that was promised anonymity. Opening previously sealed records will allow adoptees to directly contact their birth parents without resorting to commercial DNA testing that reveals themselves to other family members, thus preventing privacy in this very delicate situation. Direct contact will allow the concerned parties to move forward with privacy, if desired.

All adults should have the same access to their vital records and adult adoptees should not be subject to discrimination. We deserve the right to equal treatment under the law. I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Thank you for your support. Sincerely,

Deborah Keys Huntingdon, Pennsylvania dkeys419@hotmail.com