

Bill Number: SB0743

Title: Adoption - Access to Birth and Adoption Records and Search, Contact, and Reunion Services

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Sponsor: Senator Susan Lee

Hearing Date: February 25, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

Position: Support

I am writing in support of the bill SB0743 that is to be presented on February 25, 2020. I was born in November of 1966 and given up for adoption and my records were sealed under the laws of the times. Unfortunately, after all these years, 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 this bill being presented by Senator Lee 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 Original Birth Certificates.

With Appreciation,

Kristin Kjellson