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March 3, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Maryland General Assembly  
101 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

I write today to express my support for House Bill 1039, *Adoption – Access to Birth and Adoption Records and Search, Contact, and Reunion Services*, which would allow all adult adoptees in Maryland the right to obtain a copy of their original birth certificate and adoption records.

The ability to obtain a copy of an original birth certificate and other relevant government documents is important for many adult adoptees in understanding their identity, ancestry, and medical background. It is also information which, I believe, is rightfully theirs. Unfortunately for too many – including a close family member of mine – access to this information can be obtained only through the difficult and protracted process of obtaining a court order, or through more uncertain processes such as online DNA services.

Although I do not often feel compelled to weigh in on state legislation, this issue hits close to home. As such, I respectfully request that the Maryland House Judiciary Committee give all due consideration to House Bill 1039. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Kendall Strong, a member of my staff, at [Kendall.strong@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kendall.strong@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress

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