

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB0331**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am a Korean adoptee, long-time resident, and voter of Maryland writing in support of SB0331 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  
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