

**BILL NO:** House Bill 1117  
**TITLE:** Family Law – Adoption of an Adult  
**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary  
**HEARING DATE:** March 8, 2023  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

Adult adoption allows found families to create lifelong bonds and legal connections. Many young adults who spend time in state care as children and adolescents really miss having a permanent and legal connection to “parents.” If a loving relationship with a caring adult or couple willing to serve as forever parents has developed with a young person formerly in foster care, adult adoption is available. However, in the state of Maryland, the stipulation that the birth parents of the young adult wanting to be adopted having to agree to the adoption serves as a barrier to the adoption. Several other states such as Florida, Wisconsin, and Ohio have eliminated this antiquated requirement recognizing that as an adult the decision to be adopted is on the individual and not on the parent who is no longer in their life. House Bill 1117 would make it easier for young adults who have been able to forge these lifelong bonds to be adopted even if the rights of their biological parents were not terminated. I support this bill because it formalizes the parent-child relationship and recognizes that adoption has no age limit. I respectfully encourage a favorable report on this bill.

