

REGINA T. BOYCE
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 25, 2024

RE: Testimony for **HB0214: Family Law – Adoption of an Adult**

Good afternoon Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce here to present **HB0214: Family Law – Adoption of an Adult**. For historical reference, this bill was introduced in 2023 as HB1117 but no action was taken.

HB214 alters the provisions of law for adopting an adult (18 years or older) to include the termination of parental rights (TPR), investigations of the parent, and a home study, where necessary.

Adult adoption is common and occurs for a myriad of reasons. Some of those reasons include inheritance, medical decision-making, death of parents and/or relatives, stepchildren, or moving from a long-term foster relationship.

In the case of my constituent, she met the general parameters to adopt her son under the adoption laws, those under 18: abandonment, abuse, and lack of financial support, for instance. The adoptee was also international, with one parent in the United States and the other in another country. However, given the adoptee's age, 18 and over, the process required a host of steps deemed unnecessary for someone considered by law to be an adult.

After years of going through the process, time, and money, my constituent, through a court appointment by Zoom, officially adopted her son in the winter of 2022.

My constituent seeks to change the law to ensure no one goes through such an arduous ordeal and at times an unnecessary process.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB214 and ask for your favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina T. Boyce".

Regina T. Boyce