

January 18, 2023

The Honorable Wendell S. Walker Chair,  
Subcommittee #3  
Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions  
Virginia House of Delegates 1000 Bank Street Richmond, VA 23219

RE: FAVORABLE REPORT ON HB1969

Dear Chairman Walker and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am an adopted person impacted by policies restricting my right to access my adoption and vital records, who has for several years been advocating for adoptee rights in Maryland. I am the founder of the advocacy group, Maryland Adoptee Rights, and a member of the Capitol Coalition for Adoptee Rights. I am asking for a favorable report for HB1969.

Access to information about an adopted person's original identity is the most important issue facing the adoption community. Adopted people should not be discriminatorily restricted from access to their own personal information while non-adopted citizens in the United States have unrestricted access. Knowing who you are is a basic human right. When HB 1969 is enacted, it will restore equal access to Virginia adoptees.

Currently advocating for policy reform in Maryland, I support the efforts of Virginia adoptees and legislators introducing non-discriminatory policies. I expect that proper reform in Virginia will help lead other states to enact laws that restore equal access. The right to know one's identity is a human right that should not be denied to any American.

Thank you, Chairman Walker, for introducing this bill. I hope that my letter may be of assistance in your consideration to restore adoptee equality.

Respectfully,

Susie Stricker  
Maryland Adoptee Rights, Director  
Capitol Coalition for Adoptee Rights, Member