

Submitter: Devon Lawson-McCourt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB1523

Dear Members of the Senate Committee On Human Services,

I write to you today as a committed progressive and advocate for social justice, to express my unwavering support for Senate Bill 1523. This proposed legislation represents a significant step forward in our collective journey towards a more equitable and transparent society, ensuring that individuals have the right to fully understand and embrace their origins.

SB 1523 is not merely a procedural change; it is a transformative act that recognizes the fundamental right of individuals to access their original birth records. By enabling adults to add or change the name of a biological parent on their birth certificate, this bill directly confronts the historical injustices and bureaucratic barriers that have long obscured personal histories and identities. It acknowledges the deep-seated need for individuals to have a complete understanding of their heritage, which is crucial for their personal identity and emotional well-being.

In a society that often prioritizes bureaucracy over personal rights, SB 1523 stands out as a beacon of progress. It aligns with my values of equality, justice, and transparency, championing the idea that everyone deserves access to their personal history, free from the constraints of outdated laws and regulations. This legislation empowers individuals to reclaim part of their identity, offering a path to healing and self-awareness that has been denied to many for too long.

Moreover, declaring this bill as an emergency measure emphasizes the urgent need to address these injustices without delay. The swift enactment of SB 1523 will immediately benefit those who have been waiting for the opportunity to access their sealed birth records, demonstrating our state's commitment to rectifying past wrongs and fostering a more inclusive society.

I understand that the fight for justice is ongoing and multifaceted. SB 1523 is a critical component of this struggle, ensuring that the state acts as a facilitator of individual rights rather than an obstacle. By supporting this bill, we can take a meaningful step towards a future where every person has the knowledge and power to fully understand their origins and identity.

I urge you to stand with me in support of SB 1523. Let us show that Oregon is ready to lead the way in promoting transparency, justice, and equality for all its residents. Together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of many, proving that our

collective action can bring about profound and positive change in our society.

Sincerely,

Devon Lawson-McCourt