

Submitter:

Garrett Flatt

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB163

I am a donor-conceived person born and raised in Oregon. I was conceived via anonymous sperm donation. My whole life I was told how much I looked like my mom. My dad, however, I failed to see the resemblance and I was never told this regarding him. Growing up I always looked for genetic mirroring in my dad. I never found any. I remember hearing his cough once and thought, "my cough sounds like dad's." My parents were separated when I was 5 and my dad remarried not long after. I always felt like something was off and that I didn't fit in. My step brother looked more like my dad's son than I did. I remember seeing pictures of my cousin as well, looking like a spitting-image of him, and I wondered why I didn't. My parents hesitated telling me the news. It wasn't until I asked for a 23andme kit as a gift that I was finally told at 26. My parents clearly have a lot of trauma regarding their infertility, as do I in not finding out until well into adulthood. It wasn't until donor-conceived advocate Laura High's recent video that I learned the rights of adoptees regarding their biological parents. I am not asking for the world, I mostly just want to see a picture of my donor to know who I look like. I have never connected with more than a 2nd cousin, 3.66 DNA, on 23andme. It's honestly heartbreaking. I just want to know what I look like. Of course genetic health issues are also a big concern, as I cannot tell my doctors what genetic health problems I am predisposed to. I think voting in favor of ending anonymous donation should be an obvious conclusion and I urge you to vote yes.