

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Dana Riveccio. I am 47 years old and live in Portland, OR. I am testifying in support of the Donor Registry Provisions of SB 163 with Amendments, and I respectfully request that this statement be submitted for the record.

I unexpectedly learned, only a few years ago, that I was donor conceived. Donor conceived individuals are often burdened by someone else's secret, potentially jeopardizing their health by remaining unaware of inherited medical risks. For example, I may belong to an ethnicity, such as Ashkenazi Jewish heritage, that has a higher likelihood of carrying genetic mutations linked to breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic cancers. In that case, it would be essential for me to undergo regular screenings. Understanding my ethnicity, identifying my biological father, and recognizing the face I see in the mirror were deeply personal questions I lived with.

After more than a year, I successfully identified my biological father, a milestone I could not have achieved without the invaluable assistance of my newly discovered biological family members. I was fortunate to connect with relatives who were exceptionally supportive and willing to share important insights into my health history and ancestral lineage. I am sincerely grateful for their openness and deeply value the meaningful relationships we have built.

SB 163 will grant donor conceived adults the opportunity to access these essential truths upon turning 18. I hope Oregon will follow the lead of states like Colorado and champion equality and health for donor conceived individuals.

Sincerely,
Dana Riveccio