

Submitter: Krystal Peak

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB163

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB163 – The Right for Donor-Conceived People to Access Their Genetic Origins

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,
I urge you to vote YES on SB163. The language in the bill is essential to protecting the rights of donor-conceived individuals, ensuring they can access information about their genetic origins upon adulthood.

As a non-biological, non-gestational, queer mother of two donor-conceived children, I have experienced firsthand the deep and ongoing impact of donor anonymity. My partner and I conceived our children using an open-ID-at-18 donor from the California Sperm Bank. At the time, it felt like a progressive choice—one that would eventually give our children the opportunity to know more about their genetic background. But in reality, the lack of access to up-to-date and ongoing information about our donor has left us with significant gaps—medically, emotionally, and socially.

Medically, we are navigating our children's health with only half the picture. Every new diagnosis or medical concern brings uncertainty. Is this inherited? Could this be part of a larger pattern? The information we were provided at the time of donation is static, outdated, and completely insufficient for the reality of raising donor-conceived children. No parent should have to make critical medical decisions based on incomplete data, especially when the missing piece is locked away due to outdated policies on donor anonymity.

Socially and emotionally, the anonymity of our children's biological fathers creates an unnecessary void. When my child asks, "What's my donor's name?", my only answer is: "We don't know." We only have a number—a cold, impersonal identifier that reduces a fundamental part of their identity to something transactional. My children know more about the bagger at Trader Joe's than they do about the person who contributed 50% of their DNA. This is an injustice. They deserve the right to know who they come from.

Additionally, as the intended parent of both my children, I have shouldered the mental and financial burden of ensuring that my parentage was legally secure, no matter which state or jurisdiction we moved to in the two decades before they reach adulthood. The patchwork of laws across the U.S. forces families like mine to repeatedly prove and defend our legal parentage, adding an unnecessary and unfair strain.

Gaining these rights in Oregon is not just about donor-conceived individuals here—it sets a precedent for recognizing the rights of donor-conceived people everywhere. No person should be denied the ability to understand their genetic history because of outdated policies that prioritize donor anonymity over the rights of the children created through these arrangements.

Thank you for standing with donor-conceived people and their families by supporting this critical legislation. I urge you to vote YES on SB163.

Sincerely,

Krystal Peak