

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB163

Hello my name is Jamie McFarland I am a donor conceived person who was conceived and born in Oregon. Most other progressive countries have agreed it is in the best interest of a donor conceived person to know their genetic history and have banned anonymous donations. I have multiple medical issues that I was able to understand because of dna testing and talking to my biological family. One of which is a seizure disorder I had a seizure on the kitchen floor at 13 after falling out of bed for years and not knowing why. It turned out my donor had apparently been pulled from the program just before I was born because other kids had seizures. I also found several cousins through dna testing that also had seizures.

Ultimately I never signed an anonymity contract so I wasn't required to follow it. With dna testing I was able to figure out who my donor was after 3 years of work despite the fact that he didn't test so an expectation of keeping anonymity isn't realistic anyway.

Not knowing who my biological parent was caused distress for years including the fear of accidentally marrying a sibling or cousin.

I was told I was selfish for looking for him because there was a contract. But that contract was signed before I existed. My right to know my genetic origin was sold at a hefty sum before I was even a possibility with out any thought of the person who most impacted by that decision.

Don't let anonymity continue to harm kids. Because it is harmful.