

Submitter: Jami Seymore

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB163

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I urge you to vote YES on SB163 as introduced. This bill has vital protections for donor conceived individuals, ensuring they have the right to access information about their genetic origins upon adulthood.

I am a proud Oregonian and plan to continue to build a life here. However, I was born in Michigan, donor-conceived to a powerful single mom. My paternal donor information was always sealed; even my mom didn't know anything beyond that he was Caucasian and of Western European descent. My mom had health issues her entire life and succumbed early to them in 2018 at the age of 58. It was at that time, that I started to search for anything surrounding my donor. With no information about his identity or health issues, I found myself with endless questions of what other things could I face in my own health that haven't been disclosed because his identity is private. Beyond that, I ended up with an endless search for my own identity, especially after the loss of my only known parent. I joined Ancestry with the hopes of finding my donor, only to come up short with any close relatives who could provide answers. In the summer of 2024, I received a message through Ancestry by who has turned out to be my half sister (also born in Michigan), who was also searching to find anything regarding her donor. While donor anonymity has allowed people to give a precious gift of life to many of us, it has also blocked much of our identities, from basic necessary information like health conditions, all the way to where we come from and what makes us "us" - personality traits, eye color, etc. I am almost 34 years old and have missed much of that identity. While this decision would affect the donor-conceived of Oregon, I believe these rights to information will have a tremendous impact on all donor conceived people, potentially setting a precedent for other states (like Michigan). As I approach the point in life where I'm hoping to build a family soon with my partner, I worry about the unknowns of my own identity and DNA that could impact my own future children and later generations.

Thank you for standing with donor conceived people and their families by including this critical language. Vote YES on SB163.

Sincerely,

Jami Seymore