

Submitter:

Erin Maya

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB163

My name is Erin McShane, also known as Erin Maya in my entertainment career. I am the composer and writer of *The Complete Picture*, a rock musical that explores a donor-conceived woman's journey navigating the challenges of not having access to her genetic background. I am also a donor-conceived person, writing in support of SB 163, and I request that this statement be submitted for the record. I would be happy to testify in person if needed, and I primarily support the provisions related to the Donor Registry.

As a donor-conceived person, I know firsthand the challenges of lacking access to my medical and genetic history. It not only creates confusion but also puts my health at risk since I cannot be proactive about potential medical issues. I plan to have children soon and worry about the unknowns surrounding my own medical background. I believe every child deserves to have access to their family medical history to ensure the best possible health outcomes. It is troubling that this basic right is not a priority in the fertility industry, and that our government has not provided basic protections for donor-conceived people—more regulations exist for breeding dogs than for humans.

When my father (who raised me) passed away from cancer, I wondered if I was at risk for the same condition. After learning that I was donor-conceived and that my parents used an anonymous donor, I felt even more lost without any information about my biological background. The absence of a paper trail, and the lack of commercial DNA tests at the time, left me feeling helpless - like a science experiment with no proper research or care for long-term outcomes. It has taken almost 15 years to gather information about my paternal background, and it's still a puzzle I'm trying to piece together. I feel "behind" compared to people who know their history and take it for granted. Many are unaware that for some of us, this knowledge is a privilege.

Donor-conceived people face many challenges due to the lack of regulation in the fertility industry. The least our government can do is provide basic protections, such as access to medical history.

SB 163 will create a gamete donor registry, similar to Oregon's Adoption Registry. Oregon has a long history of supporting openness in adoption, and the same approach should be applied to gamete donors. Passage of this bill will improve Oregon law and better protect donor-conceived children.

Please consider my story, as well as the stories of others, when deciding on this bill. We share our experiences to ensure that future donor-conceived people have access to what we never had: our medical history. This is a basic human right, and donor-conceived individuals deserve the opportunity to thrive.

I urge you to support SB 163 with Amendments and move it to the Senate floor with a do-pass recommendation. Thank you for your time, and I am available to speak with any members of the Committee or their staff if needed.