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Dear Members of the ACT 156 Task Force on Parentage Law:

We write to provide **research expertise and experience from 40 years of donor conception practice at The Sperm Bank of California (TSBC)**. TSBC created the first “**open-identity-at age-18**” sperm donation program in the world (Raboy 1993). Below are some of the **only outcome data available from the US**. (Other data come from Sweden.)

**We have 22 years’ experience of releasing donor identifying and contact information to over 300 donor-conceived adults.**

#### **Interest in donor information**

- Based on the first 10 years in which donor-conceived (DC) adults could obtain identifying information, about **two DC adults for every five requested the TSBC donor’s identity** (Scheib et al. 2017). This indicates that a significant minority of DC people, **about 40%**, will identify the donor and obtain contact information when they have the option.
  - o **This number underestimates actual interest**
    - People who have identified the donor often share the information with siblings and others who have the same donor (Scheib et al. 2020).

#### **Outcome of identifying the donor**

- **Every requesting DC adult in TSBC’s program has received the donor’s identity**. In interviews with DC adults (ages 19-29) who identified the donor up to 11 earlier, **over 90% were quite positive about the overall experience**. Even with less positive experiences, **not one DC adult regretted obtaining the donor’s identity** (Scheib et al. 2023).

#### **How to ensure better outcomes for DC families**

Before anything, **children need protection** – that they remain in their families with their parents. The **Uniform Parentage Act in its current form is inclusive of all parents, including LGBTQ+, and secures legal parentage for non-genetic parents and their children**. The 2024 update to Article 9 includes the requirement that donors agree to be identifiable to requesting DC adults. **Our research and experience indicate that this identifiability option for DC adults is increasingly important to protect the interests of all parties – DC people, parents and donors**. Including this requirement in the UPA makes clear the critical importance of recognizing parentage of non-genetic parents, and non-parentage of the donors, when open-identity-at-age-18 donation is required.

- **Consider the donors**

- **The majority (71%) of TSBC donors have their identity released to at least one DC adult** (Scheib et al. 2017). TSBC donors can assist up to 10 families, meaning that 10+ DC adults can obtain a donor's identity.
  - Other US programs have higher numbers of families per donor (e.g., Colorado's new donor limit is 25). **With greater numbers of children born, more donors are likely to be identified. The Uniform Parentage Act in its current form protects both families and donors.**
- **Anonymous gamete donation is no longer feasible.** Donors are being identified via facial recognition software, direct-to-consumer DNA testing and other means (Harper et al. 2016; Crawshaw 2018). Most US sperm banks recognize that it is **unethical to promise donors that they will remain anonymous** to DC people. **The majority of US programs now offer open-identity-at-age-18 donation and the numbers of available donors has remained relatively stable despite this increased openness** (Valido et al. 2024). Open-identity donation for DC adults recognizes that anonymity is unrealistic, and combined with the Uniform Parentage Act in its current form, protects both donors and DC families.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,



Joanna E. Scheib, PHD

and on behalf of Alice Ruby, MPH, MPPM

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