



Reproductive Technologies, Inc.

THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA

August 26, 2022

Members of the California Senate:

On behalf of The Sperm Bank of California, we write to support AB 1896. With 40 years' experience, we operate the longest running U.S. nonprofit sperm donation program and the only one to conduct research on the outcomes of donor-assisted family building. Our programs are backed by research and built on openness through information sharing with donors, intended parents, and donor-conceived adults. **We find that education and information sharing with donors, intended parents and subsequent families, similar to what AB 1896 proposes, supports them in making fully informed decisions and improves the welfare of donor-conceived persons, their parents, and donors.**

Education for donors about sperm donation as a long-term commitment, with a focus on helping others have children, results in (1) some potential donors opting out of donating, but (2) more opting in, which in our program included agreeing to be identifiable to donor-conceived (DC) people at adulthood. **Through robust implications counseling and informed consent, including the limitations of anonymity and the concerns of DC people, donors are better prepared for the realities of gamete donation.** At our program, 18+ years after their program participation, >90% of donors provide additional health and other updates to be available to DC adults who obtain their identity (Scheib, Ruby & Benward, 2017). Prepared by this education, donors tell us they would rather have their identity shared through a structured program focused on information-sharing and support, than be surprised when DNA testing or other means reveal their identity.

Education for intended parents helps them to understand that donor-assisted conception and family building is not the same as having children without assistance, and that they may have unique needs in best supporting their children. Since 1982, we have provided intended parents with information about the implications of using a donor to build their family, including how this may impact their choice of donor and understanding what information their children may want or need (Scheib, Riordan & Shaver, 2000). Education allows intended parents to make informed decision about whether or not to use a donor to conceive.

We provide parents support and tools to help them talk with their children about their donor-origins (e.g., <https://www.thespermbankofca.org/content/discussing-donor-conception-your-child>, <https://www.thespermbankofca.org/donor-conceived-families>). **We support information sharing and openness among families who share the same donor, something that DC persons tell us can be invaluable when they are growing up and later (Scheib, McCormick, Benward & Ruby, 2020).** This extensive information assists parents to make choices that best support their families, and supports the welfare, health and interests of DC persons.

All factors combined – (1) initial and ongoing education and support for donors, (2) ongoing education and support for parents, and (3) the resultant openness in families – help contribute to the well-being of donors and the families they assist. **Passage of AB 1896 formalizes the provision of this education, and supports the health and well-being of gamete donors, intended parents, and donor-conceived persons.**

We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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References

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