

FAQs for the “Donor-Conceived Persons and Families of Donor-Conceived Persons Protection Act”

1. What are donor conceived people (DCP), recipient parents (RP), and donors?

DCP: person conceived with donor sperm, eggs, or embryos; **RP:** receives donation; future legal parents of DCP; **Donors:** people who provide gametes

2. How many donor conceived people are in the U.S.?

Likely millions of people, although the exact number is unknown because the industry is not required to report this information like it is for IVF cycles.¹

3. Why is this bill needed?

For decades DCP have not had access to complete medical and identifying information about gamete donors (their biological/genetic parents). The lack of regulation and oversight of gamete banks/clinics has harmed many DCP and their families.

4. What are the main provisions of the bill?

(1) Unconditional release of donor medical/identifying information to adult DCP; (2) Limits the number of families established per donor; and (3) Requires distribution of psychoeducational materials to donors and intended RPs.

5. Why is it important for DCP to access their family medical history?

Knowing and acting on your family health history is an important way to protect your health through proactive testing and early access to care.

6. Why is it important for DCP to access identifying information about the donor?

Adult DCPs should be able to obtain identifying information about donors to aid in their identity development and know their origins. It is also appropriate given the greater openness in adoption and the rise in at-home DNA testing (which makes promised anonymity impossible).

7. Why is a family limit per donor needed?

The reality of having siblings in the double digits—or even more than 100—is unnerving and causes mental and emotional harm to DCPs. DCPs (and their children) are at risk of accidental incest and find it difficult to form meaningful relationships with a large number of siblings. Donors also deserve to have a smaller number of genetic offspring for their mental wellbeing.

8. Will this bill limit access for families needing donor gametes?

No.

9. Does this bill discriminate against LGBTQ+ families?

No.

10. Does the bill limit the number of children each family can have from one donor?

No.

¹ <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fertnstert.2019.05.031>