

Bruce W. White
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April 9, 2013

Via Email
(repjasonconger@state.or.us)

Rep. Jason Conger
Oregon Capitol
Room 455-H
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Rep. Conger:

I am writing to oppose the increase in restrictions to access to birth, marriage and death records found in Section 32 of HB 2093. I understand that the House Committee on Health Care, of which you are a member, will be hearing the bill on April 10, 2013.

My concerns come from my interest in having such records be made available for genealogical research. Vital records, along with census records (which are protected for only a period of 70 years) provide the essential database for researching one's family history. Limiting access in the manner proposed would make such research more difficult than it is currently. The current standards, which protect records for 100 years (in the case of birth records) and for 50 years in the case of marriage and death records would seem to be more than adequate to protect privacy interests. In fact, if anything, I would argue that the current restriction of 50 years on obtaining death certificates should be relaxed; what possible policy/privacy reason could there be to restrict access to death records for such a lengthy period once an individual has died?

Sincerely,



Bruce W. White

c. House Committee on Health Care (debbie.malone@state.or.us)