



Testimony Regarding **HB 3345**
House Health Care Committee
April 15, 2013
Presented by: Steve Wells, BioGift

Good afternoon members of the House Health Care Committee. For the record my name is Steve Wells, I am the operations manager for BioGift.

BioGift Anatomical is a whole body non-transplant anatomical donation company. We launched on January 1, 2003 in Tigard and relocated to Portland in December 2006. BioGift currently employs 5 individuals. Our purpose is to advance medical sciences through education and research. BioGift provides fresh frozen anatomical specimens to respected academic, government, corporate, and continuing education cadaver training programs.

Most medical students do not have the opportunity to perform surgery until serving their fellowship. Academic programs including New York University, Harvard University, Weill Cornell Medical College acquire specimens from us, to allow those third and fourth year residents to perform surgery prior to serving their fellowship. They will perform General, Orthopedic, Gynecology, Neurologic and minimally invasive surgeries.

Organizations like, the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and American Association of Gynecologic and Laparoscopists hold courses for surgeons to obtain the necessary continuing education credits they are required to complete each year. They use our specimens to teach various surgical techniques to those who participate.

We work with companies including Boston Scientific, Con Med, Cook Medical, and Stryker, to further the research and development of new surgical devices or products. We also work with Intuitive Surgical in their training of robotic surgery techniques.

When new devices or products are approved by the FDA, medical companies have to train the surgeons who will be using their product or devices prior to performing a live surgery. If they did not have our specimens to do this type of training, live animals would be used instead.

We provide an opportunity for people to choose another way to be an anatomical donor. It is the choice of an individual or family member to donate someone's body to BioGift. Many times I hear family members telling us their loved one wanted to help in any way they can. They always wanted to donate their body, after they did not need it any longer. With their selfless act of donation many individuals will benefit from these medical devices, products or new surgical techniques and obtain a better quality of life.

We do not object to regulations that make sense and HB 3345 -6 attempts to provide reasonable regulation of our industry. There are a few issues we would like to bring to your attention in the -6 and our legislative representative Hasina Squires will provide an outline of those issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.