

Testimony of Lane Shetterly - February 23, 2026

Senate Bill 1557 A-Engrossed

Chair Kropf and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I offer this testimony in support of SB 1557 A, specifically Sections 7, 8, 10 and 13 of the bill, which make technical amendments to provisions of the Uniform Parentage Act (adopted by SB 163 from the 2025 session) relating to surrogacy proceedings.

I am a Commissioner from Oregon on the Uniform Law Commission, which promulgated the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA). The Uniform Law Commission is an drafts statutes for state legislatures to enact in areas of the law where uniformity among the states is desirable and substantially achievable. It was my pleasure to serve as chair of the workgroup that drafted SB 163 (2025), which enacted the UPA in Oregon.

In drafting SB 163 we intended that documents filed with the court in surrogacy proceedings would be confidential and accessible only by those persons identified in Section 67 (codified as ORS 109.232), consistent with how adoption proceedings are handled in Oregon. To accomplish this, we said in Section 67 that records of surrogacy proceedings would be “sealed” and exempt from public disclosure, except for certain specific persons. After SB 163 was passed, we learned from the courts that when a record is sealed it can only be opened and accessed by a court order. This is so, even if the person seeking to open the record is otherwise authorized to access it. In this, we imposed a more stringent limitation on access to the record of surrogacy proceedings than we intended or that is necessary; we did not intend that access to the record of by persons authorized to access it would be so encumbered.

Section 7 of SB 1557 A amends ORS 109.232 (Section 67 of SB 163) by eliminating the requirement that the record of surrogacy proceedings be “sealed.” As amended, the record remains confidential and accessible only by the persons specifically authorized, but without the need to obtain a court order in every instance. Section 8 of SB 1557 authorizes the court, on motion, to likewise make confidential the record of surrogacy proceedings initiated before the effective date of SB 163. Sections 10 and 13 of SB 1557 A make these amendments to the UPA (but not the rest of the bill) effective on the 91st day after sine die.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. I urge your support of SB 1557 A.

Lane Shetterly, Commissioner, Uniform Law Commission