

Senate Bill 1557 – A Engrossed

Chair Kropf and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Robin Pope. I am an attorney in private practice. My practice is limited to Assisted Reproduction Technology (ART) law, also known as family formation law. Over the past 35+ years I have represented intended parents, gestational surrogates, gamete donors, birth parents, adoptive parents, adoption agencies, and putative fathers. My written testimony is submitted in support of SB 1557 - A Engrossed, specifically Sections 7, 8, 10, and 13 relating to the confidentiality of surrogacy agreements.

My background includes: Oregon State Bar Member in good standing since 1981; Membership since 1997 in the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (including 4 years as a Board Trustee), a national association of attorneys who practice, or have otherwise distinguished themselves, in the field of family formation law; longtime membership in the Oregon State Bar Family Law Section, including the Standing Committee on Adoption and Assisted Reproductive Technology Law with several years as chair of that committee; many years of pro bono service to Oregon citizens as a Pro Tem Judge in Clackamas County Circuit Court (family law matters, including custody, paternity, child support) and Washington County Circuit Court (small claims court); service on three Oregon Law Commission Work Groups followed by the successful passage of pertinent legislation (paternity, parentage, and open adoption records); service on Oregon OHS Work Groups to review and revise Oregon Administrative Rules regarding adoptions and adoption agencies; work on law improvement at the Oregon Legislature in the areas of adoption and ART law, including the Oregon UPA 2017 Work Group; and longtime presenter at local and national CLEs regarding ART and adoption law.

I appreciate having the chance to submit this testimony in support of SB 1557 – A Engrossed and request that this statement be submitted for the record.

This is a technical amendment to our Uniform Parentage Act (SB 163) from last session. Our intent was that documents filed with the court in a surrogacy proceeding would be “sealed” and treated as confidential, exempt from public disclosure, and access limited to those people identified in Section 67 of SB 163. While working on implementation of SB 163, we learned that “sealed” does more than we intended and creates obstacles for the court and the people identified in Section 67. We intended that the records, while exempt from public disclosure (like adoption court records), would be accessible to the court and the people identified in Section 67 without a court order. Sections 7, 8, 10, and 13 of SB 1557 – A Engrossed will accomplish that.

Please support SB 1557 – A Engrossed. Thank you for taking the time to consider my input on this important issue.

Respectfully,



Robin Elizabeth Pope