

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Mitochondrial Donation
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April 6th, 2018

To the members of the Community Affairs Senate enquiry.

My name is [REDACTED] and I have a mitochondrial condition known as MELAS. Mitochondrial encephalopathy lactic acidosis and stroke like syndrome. It runs through my family.

My Daughter died from mitochondrial related symptoms in 1990 aged 19 and surprisingly, my Mother at 89. We didn't know she had it but I now know that it can present at any age. Family history research showed me that several of my Grandmother's siblings also died of mitochondrial related symptoms. I have a surviving son but as a male he can not pass this condition to his children although I think he has the condition but his symptoms are "soft" at the moment.

It must be stopped! This condition destroys families and breaks marriages as it's expensive to live with but more, requires very high levels of caring.

Mitochondrial Donation can reduce the prevalence of this devastating condition by simply replacing bad mitochondria with good mitochondria. It really is that simple. No family traits would be transferred from the donee, just a tiny piece of tissue called mitochondria but that family could then have a child without mito!

The drain on the Health Budget would reduce substantially as people with mito require more health services both medically and mentally.

Please approve the Bill for Mitochondrial Donation, no Mother should have to sit by a bed watching their children die of something that you have in your power to help prevent.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

Although most DNA is packaged in chromosomes within the nucleus, mitochondria also have a small amount of their own DNA. This genetic material is known as mitochondrial DNA or mtDNA. Mitochondria are structures within cells that convert the energy from food into a form that cells can use.

The nuclear DNA contains all of the familial traits where mitochondrial DNA ONLY codes for energy production.