

Thank you Chairman LaRe and Criminal Justice Committee Membes,  
My name is Cassandra Adams, and I am an adult donor-conceived person who is strongly encouraging you to support HB 64, a bill that makes fertility fraud illegal in Ohio, as an amendment to SB 288, the criminal sentencing bill. This bill has received unanimous bipartisan support here in the House Criminal Justice Committee!

In 1982, my parents were told the 'anonymous sperm donor' the doctor was using to inseminate my mother would be a close match to my raising dad in background and that this man had a thorough and clean bill of health; it turned out he was not only of an entirely different ethnic background than my raising dad, but also had had ZERO medical history taken. My parents were also told he was a student, when in fact he was a colleague of my mother's doctor. There were zero records for accountability. However, my case pales in comparison to most cases of fertility fraud: doctors using their own semen on their unsuspecting patients, switching out a husband's or chosen donor's semen for their own or any other semen not consented to. This is a huge violation of medical ethics and truly, it is criminal. I urge you to follow the lead of several other states, including nearby Indiana, the place where the documentary 'Our Father' took place. This is of particular concern to much as I have a donor sibling living in Ohio who is in danger because he does not have updated medical history; he doesn't believe our situation is true. I assure you, it is. The secrecy that allowed fertility fraud, lies, cover-ups and violation must end. My half-brother's health and the health and safety and bodily autonomy and consent of many Ohioans who may become pregnant in the future, and their children, is at stake. Doctors who deceive like this need consequences.

This bill is supported by numerous victims of Fertility Fraud, and also by Adoption Network Cleveland, the US Donor Conceived Council, and the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. As a member of a national Task Force on Donor Conception, as a support group leader for donor-conceived people, as someone concerned with fertility and care for pregnant people, and as a concerned citizen directly impacted by this legislation in Ohio, I urge you to support HB 64/ SB 288 and help Ohio keep people seeking fertility treatment and their children safe from the horrific ramifications of fertility fraud!

Thanking you immensely,

Cassandra Adams