

Dear Members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am a donor-conceived person (the biological daughter of Doctor Donald Cline from Indianapolis, Indiana) who has been greatly impacted by fertility fraud. Let me first say thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony and how this impacts our society as a whole, and the need to protect citizens. I am writing in support of Ohio Senate Bill 288 which is substantially similar to our law in Indiana. This law will help victims in Ohio fertility fraud cases to hold doctors accountable, and will send an important message that this conduct is unlawful.

Six years ago I took a DNA test thinking I may find one or two siblings and possibly other biological family members. I was told at the age of ten that I was donor-conceived. I did this test with no intent to harm anyone, only to gain siblings and possible health history. After taking the DNA test, I found I had eight half-siblings. That number has now grown to over 90 with no information as to how many half-siblings I truly have. Upon taking that test, we (myself and two half-siblings) also discovered that the doctor our parents used is our biological father. We also have half siblings that were supposed to be from their fathers' gametes, however it was thrown away and the doctor used his own sperm instead. All of this was done without consent.

Upon finding out this information, it was reported to the Attorney General's Office, only to find out there is not a law that protects families from these horrific acts. We do not know how many times this happened within our family group. Many half-siblings are in close proximity. With a large amount of us in such a small area, we and our children risk having sexual relationships with siblings and/or cousins. As you are aware, this can cause very severe health issues if a child were to be produced from such relationships. This is our reality.

Now, consider our mothers' realities. Imagine finding out that you consented to have sperm inserted inside of you that you had chosen. However, you later find out the doctor who examined you discarded that sperm, went into another room after examining you, masturbated while collecting his semen, then came back in while you were exposed and vulnerable and inserted his own semen inside of your body. This exact experience happened over and over to several women, our mothers. They did not consent! I want every male to please take a moment and think about if this were your mother, wife or daughter. Would you be okay with this act? An act that is not even considered assault? Not considered rape?

This law is needed in Ohio for many reasons. For example, current definitions of rape and sexual assault do not apply, and because it is not clear with victims could sue the doctors.

I urge you to please think about how many people this has affected and will continue to affect. You have the power to stop this from happening to others in the future. It's time we start protecting our society.

Thank you,