

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, ranking member Thomas, and members of the committee- Thank you for allowing me to be here to tell you why I think SB 288 is so important.

My name is Carrie Lauterbach, I reside in Oakwood Ohio, and am here as a proponent of Senate Bill 288, especially the provisions regarding Fertility Fraud. I am here today because I am the product of FF and would like to tell you my story as a doctor conceived child.

After taking a direct-to-consumer DNA test, I discovered I had 6 half siblings and consequently discovered all the half siblings are related to the Fertility Doctor our mothers used to conceive us. My parents went to a fertility doctor in Cincinnati to conceive both my sister and me. There they were asked to complete paperwork in which they chose an anonymous sperm donor who (they were told) would closely resemble my father. They were also told that the donor was a medical student at a nearby University. It turns out the doctor used his own sample instead of that of an anonymous donor who my parents had chosen. The fact that a medical professional would take advantage of a vulnerable family in this way is shocking.

I feel that I have an interesting perspective regarding FF since I am the product of FF, I am a medical professional who works in OB, **and** I also needed fertility treatment when it was time for my husband and I to start our family. Fertility treatment builds a unique doctor-patient relationship, based on trust, rapport, compassion, and understanding through a series of visits over weeks, months and sometimes years. There are many emotional highs and lows throughout the fertility journey which patients experience and share with their doctors creating that unique bond. In fact, many families use the same fertility doctors to conceive multiple children- which is what my parents did as well. Yes, the doctor used his own sample for both of us. Because of my experience with fertility treatment, and understanding the oaths medical professionals take, I find the doctor's actions particularly reprehensible. I can only imagine how the parents must feel when they learn of the deception by their trusted doctors. I'm not sure which is more shocking, the fact that doctors would take advantage of patients in this way, or the fact that it isn't illegal to do so.

I am here today because I don't want other families to discover and deal with the pain involved in finding out that such an egregious act was preformed to conceive their children. I ask you to make sure the individuals who perform such acts in Ohio are held accountable. Please make sure no other families go through the pain, embarrassment, and heartache of finding out such deceit. Please vote for and swiftly pass SB 288.