

February 10, 2026

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Victoria Hill and I support HB645. I am 41 years old and live in Wethersfield, CT with my husband, two children and mother, Maralee Hill. I am the product of fertility fraud. I discovered that I was donor conceived when I was 35 years old through commercial DNA testing and have at least 30 1/2 siblings, with the number steadily growing.

Through this test, I learned that I had many other half siblings. When I confronted my mother with the information, she admitted that I was donor conceived as she and my father struggled to conceive and needed help from a doctor. She explained that this doctor lead her to believe that he would use an anonymous Yale resident donor, who resembled my dad and my parents agreed to proceed. My mother sought out fertility treatment from this doctor for approximately 7 years, having multiple pregnancies and ultimately 2 children. This doctor, that she worked so closely with was Dr. Burton Caldwell.

He is my biological father.

It is my assumption then, that having no technology to freeze sperm at the time, Dr. Caldwell must have prepared my mother for insemination, went into another room, ejaculated into a cup and then while under a state of arousal, inserted specimen into my mother without her consent while she was in an incredibly vulnerable and trusting state.

After learning this information, I confronted Dr. Caldwell who very readily admitted to donating for over 20 years and showed no remorse or concern for what he had done.

Every year, my family grows larger as more siblings test, this is the gift that keeps giving. As of now, my children have 46 first cousins that I know of just in our close surrounding area with more to come.

In May, 2023, during a casual conversation with high school friends and an ex-boyfriend, he admitted that his mother also recently told him that he and his twin brother, were conceived through fertility treatment as well. We were scared and in disbelief of the possibility but sure enough, they tested and confirmed, they are my brothers. I was intimate and in a relationship with brother and very much could have seen myself marrying this man and having children had we not gone to different colleges. We were incredibly close growing up, he was my best friend first and then intimate partner later. This news is devastating to our past and now our future. We now feel like stars of the Truman Show.

Since my CNN article came out there are even more victims of this reaching out for support and direction on where to go, many of which have been turned away by lawyers due to the

lack of legislation. There are over 80 known doctors to have engaged in this incredibly reprehensible, irresponsible and criminal act.

I am thrilled to see HB645 introduced however we still have a long way to go. There are 13 other states with fertility fraud legislation. The one that is the closest to getting it right is the Illinois bill that was passed in 2023 (SB 1467). This passed as a civil cause of action against illicit inseminations. Victims are entitled to compensatory and punitive damages, in addition to attorneys fees. Children are entitled to the health history of the person who committed the fraud. There is an income tax exemption for damages received, and there's a long statute of limitations. It is the first law that is retroactive!

For legislation, I would recommend considering not including a statute of limitations as it is not conducive to fertility fraud due to the unique nature. Fertility fraud is unlike any other fraud as it is the gift that keeps on giving as stated earlier. This is important to note due to the time in which it takes to find out that this occurred in the first place and then the ongoing trauma that presents as more siblings, cousins, connections, health information and consequences are discovered.

Many cryobanks right now are putting clauses into contracts that prohibit parents from completing commercial DNA tests and claim they are trying to keep donors anonymous. The problem that this causes is that the burden will ultimately fall on the child, 18 years later, which then delays and/or blocks any kind of justice that currently exists in the system.

Another consideration would be the specific language as it is not only a physician that needs to be held responsible as there are other cases, one that just happened recently where a lab tech switched out his own sperm from the chosen. I believe this bill should apply to a physician, fertility clinic employee and/or anyone that is involved in the assisted reproductive technology process that knowingly and intentionally switches or tampers with gametes.

Thank you for listening and hopefully appreciating the importance of this legislation.

Victoria Hill, LCSW