

Testimony in Support of HB 645

Madam Chair, Mr. Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eve Wiley. I am an offspring of fertility fraud and a national advocate for protections in assisted reproductive care. Unfortunately, I am unable to testify myself today as I am out for a medical procedure for my son. Thank you Delegate Allen for being my voice and the voice of victims.

As an adult, I learned through DNA testing that the physician who treated my mother secretly used his own sperm without her consent instead of the donor my family selected. This discovery permanently altered my identity, medical history, and family relationships. It was not just my mother who was victimized, but 18 other families that we know of. This is just my case.

More than 50 physicians across the United States have been accused of fertility fraud publicly (I personally know of 80), with many additional cases hidden behind non-disclosure agreements, which currently serve as the primary and often only form of limited accountability for victims. There are victims in Maryland that have been silenced by a non disclosure agreement. This allows for the doctor's reputation to remain intact, and no medical board repercussions.

Maryland law contains a clear gap when assisted reproductive treatment is obtained through intentional deception. HB 645 closes that gap by recognizing fertility fraud as a serious violation of consent, bodily autonomy, and trust. Doctors should not be allowed to use their own sperm under anonymity - they are doctors, not donors.

I respectfully urge the General Assembly to pass HB 645 to protect Maryland families, justice for the silenced victims in Maryland, and ensure meaningful accountability for this deeply harmful misconduct.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and to Delegate Allen for championing this bill for those who do not have a voice.

Eve Wiley