

My name is Maia Emmons-Boring. I am asking that the state of Colorado passes House Bill 20-1014. My family and I are victims of fertility fraud because my mom's obstetrician used his own sperm to impregnate my mother in the 1980s. Our case is just one of several that have emerged all over the world over the last 4 years. Cases are starting to roll through the U.S. court systems and in Idaho an individual who is doctor-conceived can't sue because they were not the patient. Passing this bill will make sure that my family and other victims of fertility fraud can seek accountability from the physicians who harmed them, and protect citizens from these unscrupulous providers.

Like so many other Americans I took an at-home DNA test because I was curious about my ethnicity. I received my results at the end of December 2018. Shortly after receiving my results a woman contacted me saying she was my half-sister. This felt unreal like I was in a bad dream or the subject of a bad TV movie. When I spoke with my half-sister I learned that I was not actually related to the man whom I thought was my biological father. Learning I was sperm donor-conceived was a shock and I spoke to my parents about it. They admitted that my father was incapable of having children due to having testicular cancer when he was young. My parents, who lived in Grand Junction, Colorado, wanted to have a family and so my mom went to her OB/GYN and asked him what options were available to them. He suggested using an anonymous sperm donor, a man that would resemble my father and would be a local medical student. He assured my parents that he was able to do the artificial insemination using fresh sperm in his office and they would not have to travel to a large city to get sperm from a sperm bank. My parents agreed to an anonymous donor, who would give fresh donations. After speaking with my new found half-siblings we all felt that our mother's OB/GYN could possibly be our biological father. After weeks of research, I was able to establish a genetic connection to our mother's obstetrician. This man, my genetic father, delivered my full sister and me. I have memories of him introducing me to my sister right after she was born. Learning that my mother's OB/GYN is my genetic father has had a huge impact on my identity. I wonder what kind of person could do this to people and what makes him tick. I then wonder what I inherited from him and passed down to my own children. I look like him and in turn, my daughter looks like me. This discovery has had very serious consequences for my family relationships as well. The hardest part was telling my mom that her OB, the person that she trusted to care for her in this most vulnerable time, had deceived her, and was actually my biological father. To us, it feels like conception through rape. He used his sperm without the consent or knowledge of my parents. He lied to them about the treatment that they received. I wasn't donor-conceived like my parents thought, I am the product of my mom's OB. My mom never thought that her doctor would be her donor. This man was my mother's doctor, not her donor!

Lawmakers need to protect people like us from this harm going forward. Because fertility fraud cases fall through the cracks in current laws, we need a new law to protect patient autonomy, to show that fertility fraud is unlawful, and to hold these physicians accountable.

Please support this bill.
Thank you for your time.