



Them Before Us
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Dear Committee Members,

Them Before Us is a nonprofit organization dedicated to a single mission: defending the right of children to be known and loved by their biological mother and father. On the basis of that mission, we strongly urge you to **oppose HF 1758**. While this bill is framed as a matter of “healthcare access,” in reality, it mandates that Minnesota insurance providers and taxpayers subsidize a profit-driven industry that intentionally severs the essential bond between children and their biological parents.

The fertility industry is built upon the foundation of adult desires, often at devastating cost to the children it produces. This legislation encourages the mass production of human embryos outside the protection of the womb, where they are treated as products rather than people. In this industry, human beings are routinely screened for “desirability,” and those deemed less than desirable are discarded, or left in perpetual frozen limbo.¹ The IVF industry creates approximately 4.1 million embryos in a single year, yet sees fewer than 100,000 live births, leaving over 4 million embryos unaccounted for, without any requirements for transparency from the industry.² Yet HF 1758 seeks to normalize and expand this practice by removing financial barriers to the destruction and abandonment of surplus human lives.³

Furthermore, by mandating coverage for “services involving third parties,” HF 1758 would force the public to fund the intentional creation of motherless and fatherless children through gamete donation and surrogacy. Regardless of whether that is the stated intention of the bill, we urge the members of this committee to consider other states which have already seen court cases and settlements expanding “IVF coverage” to include third-party reproduction, including surrogacy.⁴

While adult infertility can bring about profound sorrow, we cannot allow ourselves to overcome that sorrow by manufacturing children whose link to both biological parents has been severed. This bill, by incentivizing the use of anonymous donors, effectively mandates state funding for the creation of biological orphans who will grow up wondering who their family truly is.

We ask you to listen to the voices of those who have been treated as the “products” of these contracts. Children like Ellie, who was conceived via sperm donation, have noted that being

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/gim2008104>

² See the Heritage Foundation’s analysis of CDC data here:

<https://www.heritage.org/life/report/why-the-ivf-industry-must-be-regulated>

³ <https://www.liveaction.org/news/ivf-destroys-embryos-higher-rate-abortion/>

⁴ See <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/aetna-agrees-settle-lawsuit-fertility-coverage-lgbtq-customers-rcna150658> regarding coverage for the use of third-party gametes and

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/may/09/new-york-ivf-benefits-discrimination-lawsuit> regarding expanding IVF coverage to include surrogacy, which led to a clarification from the city that employee plans covered surrogacy:

<https://www.nyc.gov/mayors-office/news/2024/10/mayor-adams-new-suite-benefits-help-make-it-easier-new-york-city-employees-to>

born of a profit-driven clinic means having your parental rights sold before you are even born. She writes,

I was born as the result of a profit-driven medical clinic selling parental rights without regard for what is best for the end product, the child produced... We, the donor conceived, are being denied some pretty basic human rights. We are commodified, existing only because our biological parent was willing to sell genetic material in order to make someone else a parent... We are denied medical family histories, histories that might one day save our lives, as well as genealogical histories that would help us piece together our identities.⁵

Another individual, Brian, who was born via surrogacy, rightly asks how we expect children to feel knowing that money was exchanged for their very existence:

How do you think we feel about being created specifically to be given away? You should all know that kids form their own opinions. I don't care why my parents or my mother did this. It looks to me like I was bought and sold.⁶

Research shows that 70% of donor-conceived adults believe society should end the practice of gamete donation because of the ethical complications involved. Surrogacy only compounds these ethical concerns, forcing infants to go through the trauma of maternal separation—an experience which can cause permanent structural changes to the brain⁷—and treats children as commodities. Reason clearly reveals that such practices have profound ethical and moral complications that should curb their use, yet society at large continues to allow the ends to justify the means.

HF 1758 can never truly accomplish the family growth it promises because it is a bill that facilitates ripping families apart by design. It prioritizes the “right” of an adult to have a baby over the right of a child to their own mother and father. We, as adults, must stop treating children as commodities to be manufactured, bought, and sold, and instead protect their fundamental right to their own biological history and identity.

We strongly urge you to vote **NO** on HF 1758.

Sincerely,

Them Before Us

⁵ <https://thembeforeus.com/ellie/>

⁶ <https://thembeforeus.com/brian-c/>

⁷ <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/05/180503142724.htm>