

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 30, 2024

Mandy K. Cohen  
Director, Centers for Disease Control  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Cohen:

We write today to express our concerns about the destruction of precious life in the in vitro fertilization (IVF) industry.

Our nation's birth certificate, the Declaration of Independence, clearly recognizes the government's role in securing the natural right to life, stating that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness," and that "to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men."

In spite of this, the IVF industry has long operated under the radar of lawmakers in the United States. While other Western countries prohibit clinics from practicing eugenics or carelessly destroying human life, the U.S. does not even require clinics to be transparent about their participation in these activities. This carelessness has earned the U.S. the title of the "Wild West" of assisted reproductive technology.

Clinics are not required to disclose the total number of embryos they create, how many they store indefinitely, or how many they destroy and for what reasons. Shockingly, clinics are not even required to disclose statistics on their application of genetic screening, which more than 70% of fertility clinics utilize for sex-selection.<sup>1</sup> Advancing technology raises further concerns that clinics will use genetic screening to choose the "best" embryos based on traits like eye or hair color, complexion, or potential height. In the U.S., this technology is already used to select or discard embryos based on eye color.<sup>2</sup>

Congress cannot allow clinics to continue concealing these activities, which carry significant moral and ethical implications, from the public.

Therefore, we request your full and complete response to each question below no later than May 29, 2024. Please provide a separate response to each question, rather than a narrative response.

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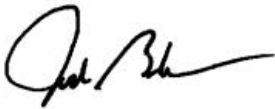
<sup>1</sup> <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/who-should-regulate-preimplantation-genetic-diagnosis-united-states/2018-12>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fertility-docs.com/programs-and-services/pgd-screening/choose-your-babys-eye-color/>

1. Is the CDC aware of:
  - a. How many embryos are created in total each year through the process of IVF? If so, please provide the number from each year you possess data.
  - b. How many embryos created through IVF are destroyed each year? If so, please provide the number from each year you possess data.
  - c. How many embryos created through IVF are currently in storage? If so, please provide the number.
  - d. The average length of time an embryo created through IVF is kept in storage? If so, please provide the number.
  - e. How many embryos are screened each year for sex-selection, genetic abnormalities, or physical attributes such as eye, skin, or hair color? If so, please provide the number.
  - f. How many embryos each year are destroyed after undergoing genetic screening? If so, please provide the number.
2. Please describe in detail the CDC's recommendations for:
  - a. The number of embryos created per IVF cycle.
  - b. The treatment of excess embryos.
  - c. The destruction of embryos.
  - d. The utilization of genetic screening.
3. Does the CDC maintain any moral or ethical concerns regarding the use of genetic screening to select embryos based on genetic abnormalities, sex, or physical attributes?
4. Does the CDC maintain any moral or ethical concerns regarding the intentional creation and destruction of excess embryos during the process of IVF?
5. Does the CDC maintain any moral or ethical concerns regarding the indefinite storage of embryos created through IVF?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



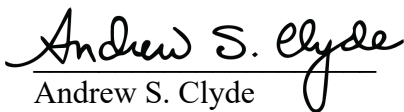
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Josh Brecheen  
Member of Congress



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Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.  
Member of Congress



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Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress