

What does HB 215 (“An Act Banning Human Cloning; and Establishing Penalties”) prohibit?

HB 215 prohibits the creation or use of a cloned human embryo for any purpose. Human cloning copies the genetic code of one person in order to create an embryo with virtually the same genetic material. Human cloning creates a new, individual human life by artificially fusing two cells rather than by fertilization.

Since all human cloning creates a new human life, HB 215 prohibits that process. References like “reproductive” or “therapeutic” cloning speak to what one intends to do with the cloned embryo. HB 215 bans the creation of a cloned human embryo so that neither implanting it into a uterus for a live birth (“reproductive”) or destroying it in a laboratory for stem cell research (“therapeutic”) would be legal.

What does HB 215 allow?

HB 215 does not interfere with assisted reproductive technologies like *in vitro* fertilization. It also does not interfere with any stem cell research using sources other than cloned human embryos.

Why support HB 215?

Most elected officials and scientists agree that a cloned human embryo should not be implanted in a woman’s womb with the goal of growing the embryo for research or a live birth. However, without a comprehensive ban on all human cloning (like HB 215), there’s virtually nothing to prevent the implantation of a cloned embryo into a uterus for such purposes. It’s better to ban the creation of all human embryos than take that chance.

The cloning process also requires women’s eggs, putting low-income and young women at risk of exploitation by researchers who are willing to pay for donated eggs — even though the process of egg extraction poses physical risks for women.

And finally, scientists working in the field of stem cell research admit that human cloning is unrealistic and highly unlikely to yield therapeutic benefits for patients.

Please Support HB 215