Kelly Ly and Ananya Srinivasa-Gopalan

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E Block

“The Clone Wars”

For centuries, science fiction novels and movies have forewarned the consequences of future technology. But with the increased popularity of cloning animals, most notably Dolly, one wonders if we will eventually challenge the unimaginable—cloning humans. It’s a daunting topic often left untouched in fear of clone domination. To soothe such trepidation, many states have placed regulations limiting the extent of human cloning. But to the concern of many, other states have not. Cloning humans is unethical and must never happen. Stronger legislation must be enacted to uphold our morals and set boundaries to the fathomless possibilities that will be brought by human cloning.

What was once only a thinly-veiled plot to a sci-fi movie has now become a foreseeable future. The imagined cloning procedure appears to be simple: Extract the nucleus of a body cell and insert it into an enucleated human cell of another person ("If Human Cloning Happened”). Many argue on whether these living replications are considered human or mere products of science. Humans are defined as “self-aware social mammals generally possessing the ability to reason, speak, and use complex tools” (Tafarella). Scientifically speaking, clones’ similar capabilities prove that they are human, but however, their lack of a natural upbringing differentiates them. These clones are desensitized to affection because they lack the nurture and milieu provided for human children. These glorified robots are looked down upon as subhumans who are catalysts to the devaluation of the human race.

However, others claim that clones can serve a larger purpose than joining society: they can donate much-needed organs or tissues to patients. Again, this questions clones’ rights, but donating clone organs faces little potential of success. As a person ages, telomeres in their chromosomes shorten, increasing cell vulnerability. Clones would receive shortened telomeres from a parent, leaving them prone to diseases and moreover premature death (Maugh), making it risky to donate weak organs.

The list of clone issues doesn’t just stop there though. Accidental manipulations of DNA can cause genetic abnormalities, possibly affecting their thoughts and actions. We are uncertain of how these unpredictable human replicas will act when let out into society. If experimentation goes South, who’s to say that clones will follow our societal norms or Congressional law? Stricter regulations should be implemented to protect us from such a crisis.

Furthermore, early clone death or clone abnormalities can be heartbreaking. Cloning may progress, but experimentation wastes lives in this process and staying error-free is impossible. If lives mean anything at all, the U.S. needs to take action.

The government must prevent the unforeseen consequences of human cloning. If human cloning is acceptable, it sets a precedent for extreme practices and experiments on humans. The human race would have surely crossed a line that we cannot return from. The world as we know it will be forever altered. As interests for human cloning continue to increase, states ought to ban human cloning and strictly enforce it, especially if the U.S. wants to remain as a model for liberty.

Works Cited

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Brainstorm

Pros:

* Organs for others (but that also brings up the question on whether they are humans too, and if so, what are their rights?)
* Exterminate disease
* Infertility (kids that are like their own)

Cons:

* Ethical
* What are their rights?; questions our treatment to them because people may treat them as a product of science rather than a human with real life
* Moreover, these clones don’t seem to survive very long, suffering from heart problems
* Counterclaim: Will cloning get better?

<https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/appendix-state-laws-on-human-cloning>

<https://medium.economist.com/if-human-cloning-happened-db76888a2069>