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E Block

“The Clone Wars”

For over a century, 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, including Massachusetts. But concerningly, other states have not. Stronger legislation must be enacted to uphold our morals and set boundaries to the fathomless possibilities that will be brought by human cloning.

Many argue on whether these living replications are considered human or mere products of science. 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. In addition, accidental manipulations of DNA can cause genetic abnormalities, possibly affecting their thoughts and actions. If experimentation goes South, who’s to say that clones will follow our societal norms or Congressional law?

However, others claim that clones can serve a larger purpose than joining society: they can donate much-needed organs or tissues to patients. This questions clones’ rights, but moreover, donating clone organs faces little potential of success. According to a research that won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize in Physiology or Medicine, as a person ages, telomeres in their chromosomes shorten, increasing cell vulnerability (“The Nobel”). 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. 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. Stricter regulations should be implemented to protect us from such a crisis.

The government must prevent the unforeseen consequences of human cloning before it is too late. 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. As interests for human cloning continue to increase, all states ought to ban human cloning and strictly enforce it, especially if we want to remain as a model for liberty.

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