

My name is Justin Parsons, and I give Adel DiOrio full authority to read this letter on my behalf because I am not able to make it there today.

Our son was diagnosed with spina bifida at 18 weeks gestation. We were sent from a doctor in Livonia to meet with a doctor in Ypsilanti who told us our son was going to be a "vegetable" and never have a chance at a "normal life". My reaction to this was, "Is this lady crazy?" So, we wanted to talk with other doctors about this that specialize in spina bifida, specifically myelomeningocele.

We were referred to a children's hospital where the social workers there told us the same thing but more in depth...that he will never walk, if he is not fully immobilized he will be in a wheelchair, he will have major learning disabilities, and he won't live that long. We were running out of time to terminate in Michigan, and these places and doctors can get us in right away. And blah, blah, blah.

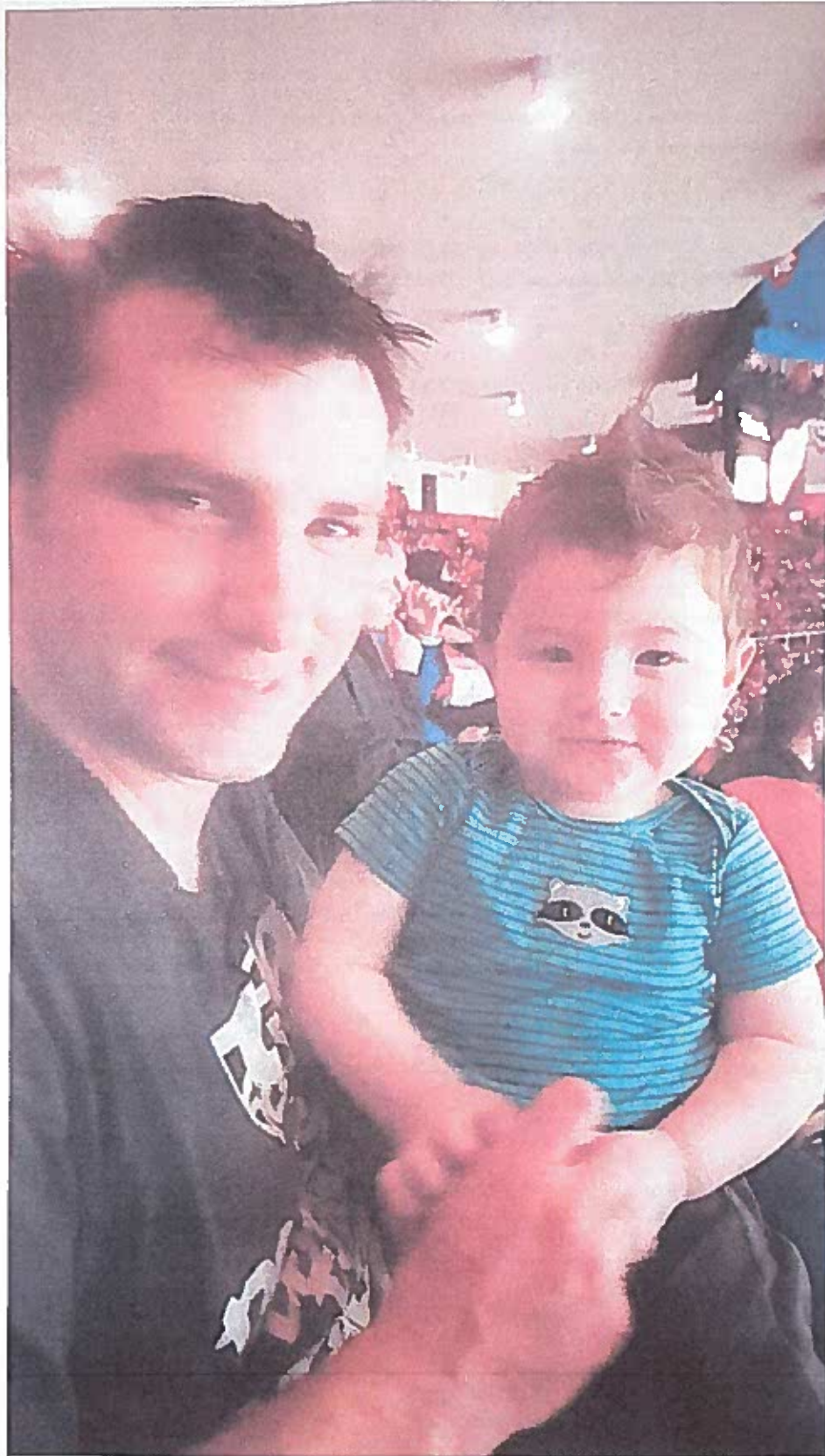
I asked the three ladies who were in the room which one of them is the doctor that deals with spina bifida? The answer was none. Not one person in that room had ever physically dealt with spina bifida.

So, I am sure you have read the same old stuff on the internet that we received. Yes, some of the internet stuff is scary. So, I asked to meet with the actual surgeon that does the surgery he will know the most about it. So, we go to meet with Dr. Garton. Love this man. He was our first ray of sunshine. One of his first questions is what kind of parents are you? Me, having two other children and this one being her first, she said I think I'll be a good parent. I said I have two others (who, at the time, were 11 and 9) and they are still alive and healthy so I must be doing something right. He said, "Well, that's the kind of life that this one will have." Yeah, he may not walk but he could, he maybe in a wheelchair but he very well could not be also. He may have learning disabilities, but he could not also. "Kids are kids," is what he said. He told us, without a doubt, he will have a lot more doctor appointments than your other kids.

So, in short, something needs to change. If it were not for me asking to speak with the doctor, the ignorant "professionals" at the hospitals would have won, and we would have killed our child. Having a child with spina bifida myelomeningocele, yes, is harder than my other children have been. Dax is now two and still crawling but he is very close to walking. We cath him when we change his diapers to make sure everything is out. We give him bowel and bladder medication every day, sometimes two times a day, but other than that, he is just a kid. He gets into everything he can reach wants to explore and wants to do everything he can.

Pass this bill so other parents don't make the choice we could have made...abortion based on information that never included the fact that our son would just be a kid with a couple of differences...not a vegetable with no quality of life. Please, get it done.

Justin



Dax