



Child Marriage Legislation Sample Support Letter

Sample Subject: Protect Against Child Marriage: Pass Senate Bill 2294

Sample Text:

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 2294 to help end child marriage in Massachusetts. S.2294 eliminates exceptions to the marriage age, and reserves marriage, a serious legal contract, for those who have reached the age of majority.

While the current minimum marriage age in Massachusetts is 18, the law includes a troubling exception that allows children of *any age* to wed with parental consent and judicial approval. Moreover, though there is no statutory minimum marital age under this exception, precedent established by case law does little to protect children in the state— a male needs only to have reached 14 years of age, while a female needs only to have reached the age of 12. In cases in which minors request a marriage license, there is no mechanism in place to ensure that the required parental consent is not in fact parental coercion.

Child marriage severely jeopardizes outcomes in health, education, and economic freedom. It also increases the risk of domestic violence.

I therefore urge you to support and pass S.2294 and protect all minors from child marriage in Massachusetts.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,