



Child Marriage Legislation Sample Support Letter

Sample Subject: Protect Against Child Marriage: Support House Bill 360

Sample Text:

I am writing to urge you to support House Bill 360 to help end child marriage in Pennsylvania. House Bill 360 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 Pennsylvania is 18, the state allows for two major exceptions: (1) children ages 16 and 17 can marry with parental consent, and (2) children aged 15 or younger can marry with judicial approval. There is currently no minimum age below which a judge can no longer approve a marriage, nor are there any criteria that a marriage involving a minor below the age of 15 must meet to be eligible for judicial approval. In cases in which minors over the age of 15 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 House Bill 360 and protect all minors from child marriage in Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,