



BREAKING THE SILENCE
PROTECTING LIBERTY
CELEBRATING DIGNITY

Child Marriage Legislation Sample Support Letter

Sample Subject:

Ban Child Marriage in Massachusetts: Pass the FY 2023 Budget with Sections 39A-H of H4701

Sample Text:

I am writing to urge you to ask the Conference Committee to retain Sections 39A-H of the House budget bill (H4701) in the FY 2023 budget, in order to end child marriage in Massachusetts. Sections 39A-H passed unanimously in the House under Amendment 1443.

While the current marriage age in Massachusetts is 18, the law includes a troubling loophole that allows children of any age to wed with parental consent and judicial approval. Sections 39A-H eliminate this dangerous exception and reserve marriage, a serious legal contract, for those who have attained the age of 18 and the full rights of adulthood.

Children can easily be forced to marry and there is no way 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 ask the Conference Committee to retain Sections 39A-H of the House budget bill (H4701) in the FY 2023 budget and protect all minors from child marriage in Massachusetts.

The longer we wait, the more minors we put at risk. It is time to end this human rights abuse in Massachusetts. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,