

Child Marriage Legislation Sample Support Letter

Sample Subject:

Ban Child Marriage in Michigan: Schedule a Hearing on HB4226-4229

Sample Text:

Dear Chairman Wakeman,

I am writing to urge you to schedule a hearing on HB4226-4229, to end all child marriage in Michigan, without exception.

While the current marriage age in Michigan is 18, the law includes two troubling exceptions; the first exception allows children aged 16 or 17 to wed with parental consent, the second allows children of any age to marry with parental consent and judicial approval. HB4226-4229 eliminate these dangerous loopholes 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 support and schedule a hearing on HB4226-4229, vote them favorably through committee and protect all minors from child marriage in Michigan.

The longer we wait, the more minors we put at risk. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,