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#### FULL MEMBERS

ACTS II Ministry for Teens  
Adoption Option, Inc.  
Bethany Christian Services  
D.A. Blodgett–St. John's  
Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee &  
Hillsdale Counties  
Catholic Charities of Shiawassee  
& Genesee Counties  
Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan  
Catholic Charities West Michigan  
Catholic Social Services of the Upper  
Peninsula  
Child & Family Charities  
Child & Family Services  
of Northeast Michigan  
Child & Family Services  
of Northwestern Michigan  
Child & Family Services  
of the Upper Peninsula  
The Children's Center  
Christ Child House  
CNS Healthcare  
Development Centers, Inc.  
Eagle Village  
Family & Children Services  
Family Outreach Center  
Family Service & Children's Aid  
Federation of Youth Services  
Forever Families  
Fostering Futures  
Fostering Solutions  
Great Lakes Recovery Center  
The Guidance Center  
Guiding Harbor  
Hands Across the Water  
Highfields, Inc.  
Holy Cross Services  
Homes for Black Children  
Hope Network Behavioral Health Services  
House of Providence  
Insight Youth & Family Connections  
Judson Center  
Livingston County Catholic Charities  
MCHS Family of Services  
The New Foster Care  
New Light Child & Family Institute  
St. Vincent Catholic Charities  
Samaritas  
Services to Enhance Potential (STEP)  
Southwest Solutions  
Spaulding for Children  
Starr Commonwealth  
Teaching Family Homes of Upper  
Michigan  
TimberCreek Ranch  
U.P. KIDS  
Upper Peninsula Family Solutions  
Vista Maria  
Wedwood Christian Services  
Wellspring Lutheran Services  
West Michigan Partnership for Children  
Whaley Children's Center  
Youth Guidance Foster Care & Adoption

#### AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan  
Fostering Forward Michigan  
Michigan CASA, Inc.  
Michigan State University School  
of Social Work

June 16, 2023

Dear Chair Hope and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

The Michigan Federation for Children and Families (the Federation) supports the work of Michigan's Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform and believes that the approved consensus-based recommendations will help Michigan improve outcomes for youth and strengthen public safety.

Many counties and courts across Michigan are already employing research-based policies and practices, and over the last several years, Michigan has made several improvements to its juvenile justice system. However, Michigan's juvenile justice system is still facing systemic challenges, as outlined in the [final report](#) issued by the Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform.

To address these challenges, we believe statewide policy changes are required and encourage bi-partisan legislative action during the 2023 legislative session and thereafter. The Federation is in support of the priority legislative package resulting from the Task Force. These bills include:

- HB 4624: Expanding use of the Child Care Fund
- HB 4625/4626/4628: Expanding the Diversion Act and using risk screening tools to inform diversion and consent decisions
- HB 4627: Using Risk and Needs Assessments to inform decision making
- HB 4629: Using a Detention Screening Tool to inform detention decisions
- HB 4630/4631: Creating a statewide juvenile defense system through MIDC and SADO
- HB 4634 – 4637: Eliminating most fines and fees for juveniles except restitution and the crime victims' fund
- HB 4638 – 4643: Expanding the Office of the Child Ombudsman to include juvenile facilities
- HB 4632: Allows DHHS to change per diem rates as needed
- HB 4633: Revises factors that should be considered by the court in making waiver and designation decisions

The Federation is a statewide nonprofit association whose 60 member agencies, all private nonprofit community-based organizations, work through contract with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to provide supportive services to children and their families throughout all 83 counties in Michigan. These organizations are mission

driven, playing a vital role in providing services and positive outcomes for the overall health and well-being of children and their families in Michigan communities. Nearly 100% of family preservation, adoption, and residential treatment services and close to 50% of foster care services and an array of behavioral health, clinical and in-home services are provided by nonprofit agencies in Michigan.

For more than 50 years, the Federation has provided a collective and expert voice on behalf of its members in working alongside state department and legislative leaders, with shared responsibility, to continuously help families in Michigan communities lead lives of greater health and opportunity.

The mission of the Federation is to influence public policy and practice in support of the highest quality services to children and families. Federation member agencies envision communities where all children, youth and families thrive. In order to achieve successful outcomes for children and their families, strong relationships between the private agencies and the public agency are vital.

The development of the Task Force's recommendations and the priority bill package has been a collaborative, research-based, data-driven process, and our members are willing to testify and advocate in support of their implementation. We appreciate the work of the Task Force and hope that the legislation receives the attention and support it deserves on behalf of Michigan's children and families statewide.

Thank you,



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