

House Judiciary Committee
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chair Breen, Vice Chair Edwards, Vice Chair Fink, and members of the committee,

RE: Support of Michigan Family Protection Act

I write this letter in strong support of the Michigan Family Protection Act.

My name is Rachael Lang and I am a Michigan resident residing in Livonia. I am writing this letter in support of this bill as a mother through surrogacy. At 26 years old, I was devastated to learn that I had breast cancer. My health would have been at risk if I carried our child. Newly married and with a desire to have a family, we had a difficult decision to make about how we would start a family. Luckily, we had a friend offer to be our surrogate and welcomed our daughter in March 2023. Although our daughter is here and genetically our daughter, we legally are not her parents. We are currently her guardians and in the process of adopting her. This is due to the 1988 Surrogate Parenting Act, which makes it illegal to do a surrogacy contract in Michigan. We were not granted a pre birth order through Kent County (where we lived at the time) to grant us parentage at the time of our daughter's birth. The process has been long, confusing, and heartbreaking.

This bill that is being introduced would ensure that other Michigan families do not have to go through the difficult process of being denied as the legal parents of their child if their child is born via surrogacy. This bill will update Michigan's parentage statutes, ensuring that all children in Michigan have access to a legal parent-child relationship, no matter how they are born. Based on the Uniform Parentage Act of 2017, the Michigan Family Protection Act has been crafted by leading experts in parentage law to meet the needs of children and families. The bill will ensure that our state's laws remain constitutional, reflects best practices, and protects all children in Michigan.

I hope you will report the Michigan Family Protection Act favorably out of committee, and consider the needs of the intended parents and gestational carriers when making your decision.

Sincerely,

Rachael Lang
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