

Michigan Judges Association

Founded 1927

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May 2, 2022

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Hon. Graham Filler
House Judiciary Committee
N-1197 House Office Building
Post Office Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: House Bills 5860 & 5861

Dear Chairman Filler:

On behalf of the Michigan Judges Association (“MJA”), I am writing to state our opposition to House Bills 5860-5861. These bills would require fathers of children born out of wedlock to pay at least 50 percent of “the mother’s pregnancy expenses” and “a child’s health insurance premium until that child is no longer a dependent of a parent or until the child reaches 26 years of age, whichever occurs first[.]” The goal of requiring fathers to pay their fair share for their children born out of wedlock is laudable, but courts already have the legal authority to apportion hospital, medical, and confinement expenses for the birth of a child. Moreover, House Bills 5860-5861 establish payment floors that do not depend upon the income or ability to pay of the parents.

MJA looks forward to providing any additional assistance that you request in addressing our concerns with the bills.

Sincerely,



Christopher P. Yates, President
Michigan Judges Association