

Advocacy Day to End Child Marriage in Michigan

March 8, 2022

Call your State Representative and Senator

- **Call your State Representative and ask them to commit to voting YES on House Bills: #HB4226 through #HB4229 to end child marriage in Michigan – marriage should be at 18 with no exceptions. Find your State Representative here: <https://www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic/frmFindaRep.aspx>.**
- **Call your State Senator and ask them to support the forthcoming Senate Companion Bill to end child marriage in Michigan – marriage should be at 18 with no exceptions. Find your State Senator here: <https://senate.michigan.gov/>**



Email Advocacy

- Join and share UNICEF email campaign to State Legislators: <https://act.unicefusa.org/childmarriage>
- Join and share Unchained At Last's email campaign to Michigan Legislators: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/urge-rep-graham-filler-to-end-child-marriage-in-mi/>

Send a Postcard to your Representative #18NoExceptions

<https://www.unchainedatlast.org/host-a-postcard-party/>

- Add a personal note to your postcard. Some examples:
 - PLEASE prioritize ending child marriage and schedule a hearing on HB4226 through HB4229
 - If the USA condemns other countries for child marriage, Michigan should too.
 - A child can't legally end a contract, our laws should protect them from being entered into one.

Facts about Child Marriage in Michigan

- Under the 1887 Michigan law there is NO minimum age to marry. Child Marriage is legal in Michigan.
- 77% of Michigan's child brides were minor girls married to adult men with a significant age difference.
- Child Marriage not only avoids Statutory Rape charges, it is also a gateway to Human Trafficking.
- The Consequences of Female Child Marriage include:
 - A 70-80% chance of getting divorced. Additionally, divorced teen mothers are more likely to end up living in poverty than teen mothers who did not marry.
 - 3 times more likely to be beaten by their spouse than those who marry at 21 or older.
 - 50% more likely to drop out of high school and 4 times less likely to complete college.
 - 23% greater risk of disease onset including heart attack, diabetes, cancer and stroke.
 - Higher rates of sexually transmitted infections.
- Minors cannot hire a lawyer to file for divorce.
- Domestic Violence Shelters must return minors to their legal guardians. Additionally, if a friend shelters a child bride, they could legally be charged with delinquency of a minor.

Join the Michigan Coalition to End Child Marriage

Have your organization join the Michigan Coalition to End Child Marriage: Contact Becca at Becca@unchainedatlast.org