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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
Wedgwood 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

July 11, 2023

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety 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

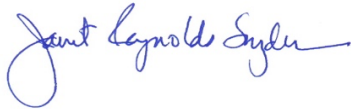
The Federation is a statewide nonprofit association whose 60 member agencies, all private nonprofit community-based organizations, work through contract with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to provide supportive services to children and their families throughout all 83 counties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