



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

NATIONAL OFFICE
870 Market St Suite 370
San Francisco CA 94102
tel 415 392 6257
fax 415 392 8442
info@nclrights.org
www.nclrights.org

House Judiciary Committee
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

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

On behalf of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), one of the nation's leading legal advocacy groups for LGBTQ people and their families, I write to urge you to support the Michigan Family Protection Act.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is a national legal organization committed to advancing the human and civil rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community through litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education. Since its founding, NCLR has been committed to advancing racial and economic justice and supporting the LGBTQ community's most vulnerable, including by advocating for expanded, more equitable access to reproductive health care for those struggling to overcome financial obstacles to parenting.

Currently, many Michiganders who require assisted reproductive technologies and gestational surrogacy face obstacles to creating families, including the lack of a clear pathway to secure legal parenthood. Children born through assisted reproduction deserve the stability of secure family relationships. Their parents, and the people who serve as donors and surrogates, need clear legal standards and safeguards to protect their rights and interests.

While awaiting legislative action, many LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ Michiganders experiencing infertility have faced insurmountable obstacles to parenthood. By making gestational surrogacy available to Michigan families, protecting the rights and health of people who serve as gestational carriers, and providing legal clarity for sperm, egg, and embryo donors, the Michigan Family Protection Act will help ensure that all Michiganders, including those who require the help of doctors, donors, and surrogates, are able to build their families.

For these reasons, I urge you to support the bill. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance in your work. I can be reached at sminter@nclrights.org or 415-365-1310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon P. Minter", is written in a cursive style.

Shannon P. Minter
Legal Director, NCLR