



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

On behalf of Mothering Justice, I am writing to urge you to share your support of the Michigan Family Protection Act.

Mothering Justice is a grassroots policy advocacy organization that provides mothers of color with the resources and tools they need in order to use their power to make equitable changes in policy. We are dedicated to improving the quality of life for families in this country by empowering mothers of color to take action during policy making on behalf of themselves and their families. Our Mamas Agenda focuses on issues such as black maternal health, affordable childcare, paid time off, and basic needs.

Parentage laws in Michigan have not been updated since the 1980's and as a result there are mothers of color who have little to no rights. This is why Mothering Justice continues to lead policy work that supports equity and access for all mothers of color, including surrogates, which is evident in our recent efforts with the Omnibus package of bills.

Mothering Justice seeks to center motherhood as a policy shaping tool. For these reasons we support the Family Protection Act. Without proper legislation, our children are at risk for losing health insurance, the financial protection of 2 parents, and legally upheld parenting time.

This legislation is critical because Michigan law lacks clear standards to protect both parents, but more importantly because it leaves our children unprotected and vulnerable.

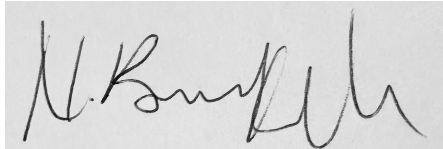
We all understand the harm and trauma separating a family can do to a child.

This bill will comprehensively update the State of Michigan's parentage laws, ensuring that all children have access to a clear legal relationship with their parents, regardless of the circumstances of the child's birth, or the marital status, gender, or sexual orientation of their

parents. Michigan has been a policy leader for bills like the omnibus, which tells us that the State understands the importance of legislative protection for parents.

We urge Michigan to continue to expand protections and remain a policy pioneer for parental rights by passing the Michigan Family Protection Act. Please accept the guidance from affected families and the organizations that have been on the front line concerning assisted fertility.

Nkenge Burkhead

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "N. Burkhead".

Deputy Director, Programs
Mothering Justice