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Michigan NOW Supports HB 4259
That Would Allow Two Unmarried Parents to Jointly Adopt a Child

Michigan NOW commends Representative Paul Condino and co-sponsors for introducing House Bill 4259 that would allow for two unmarried persons to jointly adopt a child.

We applaud the committee for recognizing that this legislation is about the best interest of *children*. It establishes a legal relationship between parents and child only. It ensures children have the financial, legal, and emotional security of two parents. It also ensures that both parents are financially responsible for their children in the event of death or separation of the parents.

House Bill 4259 will create more two-parent adoptive homes for children. In Michigan, nearly 80% of those who enter foster care at age 12 or older will leave the system without returning to their original homes and without being adopted (U.S. children's Bureau, 2005). Research shows these children have high rates of homelessness, poverty, substance abuse and early pregnancy.

House Bill 4259 will save Michigan and taxpayers money. This legislation will help ease the burden on the state during these times of diminishing revenue. Allowing two unmarried parents to adopt jointly would expand the number of permanent homes available, decreasing the cost to the state and the number of children waiting to be adopted.

We thank Representative Paul Condino and urge the House Judiciary Committee to pass HB4259.

The National Organization for Women is the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States. NOW has 500,000 contributing members and 550 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For More Information contact:

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NOW's purpose is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.