

Dear House Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors members,
I am writing to you in opposition to HB 4188, 4189, and 4190, which seek to amend adoption placement rules regarding non-discrimination by adoption agencies.

Briefly, in terms of my background, I am a board certified neuropsychologist and direct the Center for Autism at Hope Network. We are West Michigan's leading provider of early autism diagnoses and treatment, and Hope is a proud partner of the state in serving this population as well as helping all kinds of people overcome. I also advocate for children on the national level as a board advisor to the American Association of Children's Residential Centers, and I have helped author position papers on psychiatric treatment of children in welfare settings as well as inclusion and support of children of diverse gender and sexual orientation, identity, or expression (that is, the LGBT community).

My message is simply that these bills endanger Michigan children by putting private religious views above their welfare. We have over 4,200 children in foster care (in fact, as I'm writing this, I just finished an assessment of a recently adopted child who exited the foster system, and I care for children on a daily basis who are now or have been involved in / adopted from foster care). These kids need loving, stable homes, and we need every committed family, irrespective of color, belief, or configuration, to join us in doing right by these kids. Providing a legal "license to discriminate" to foster care and adoption service agencies simply serves no public good and has the potential to harm children who are among our most vulnerable Michiganders - many of whom have already been "to hell and back."

I am so proud to have had opportunities to partner with and advocate alongside our elected leaders in Lansing, in the past, and I know well the deep commitment to and passion for these kids who represent our future that runs in the blood of so many of you, just as it runs through mine. Please do the right thing, and vote for Michigan kids, and not for HB 4188, 4189, or 4190.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify to you in writing.

With respect,
Mira Krishnan

2626 Brooklyn Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507-3937
Tel. (248) 854-9920
E-mail: mira@miracharlotte.com