

April 22, 2015

Dear Families, Senior & Human Services Committee Members,

I am writing you today because I oppose HB4188, 4189, and 4190. These bills are written so broadly that they would allow publicly funded adoption agencies to legally discriminate.

If passed, these bills would unconscionably provide adoption agencies a license to discriminate based on an unlimited array of arbitrary criteria. They would do nothing to protect Michigan children and would instead cause harm, disregarding the best interests of the child. The bills even acknowledge that denying a couple based on religious or moral convictions does not imply "that the proposed adoption is not in the best interests of the adoptee."

With 13,000 children residing in Michigan's foster care system at any one time and at least 3,000 children in Michigan's foster care system actively seeking a safe forever home, our focus should be on creating access to stable environments in which to raise these vulnerable children. We should not be turning away capable and willing families eager to love and support a child in need.

Numerous studies by public universities have shown that when considering adoptive parents, an ability and eagerness to love and support a child far outweighs a parent's demographic background - including their race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, differently abled status, and ethnicity.

Furthermore, the bills would ensure that public funds collected from taxpayers like me could be applied to supporting adoption agencies which openly discriminate against people that I know and love. I think you would agree that using our money to harm those I love and children in need is not okay.

State sanctioned discrimination is wrong, and wasting taxpayers' dollars to do it is unconscionable. That is why I implore you to defeat House Bills 4188, 4189, and 4190.

Thank You,


Andrew Chesonda