From: emmyrockstar97@everyactionadvocacy.com on behalf of Emily Martin
To: Rep. Mike Clampitt
Subject: Child Marriage is Legal in Our State. PLEASE ACT NOW!
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:16:01 AM

Dear Representative Mike Clampitt,

Child marriage is legal in 46 states. I'm ashamed to be living in one of those 46. As a constituent in your district, I expect you to be my voice in our state capital. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that, as of 2018, there were over 75,344 married minors between the age of 15 and 17. Many of these child marriages are happening right here in our state.

This is unacceptable, and I need you to immediately begin taking the necessary steps to reform our outdated laws. These are not innocent teen marriages. Instead, they are composed of young girls coerced by their parents or communities into marrying adult men many times their age. The short- and long-term impacts of these marriages are incredibly harmful, ranging from physical, mental, and emotional abuse to educational inequities and beyond.

Even worse, child marriage is a system designed to entrap. In most cases, guardianship is transferred over to the spouse upon the marriage of a minor. Not only can girls not speak with attorneys, but those who flee are classified as runaways and are forced to return to the very abuser they were trying to escape.

As a voter in your district, I want you to know how important this issue is to me.

I'm writing as a part of the Students Against Child Marriage campaign to end this practice in the United States. This organization is the first 501(c)(3) nonprofit in the United States to fight against child marriage through youth activism. They are leading this fight in many states, and I implore you to work with them in pursuit of a world without child marriage. Just go to studentsagainst.org/lawmakers to begin a conversation and save lives.

I greatly appreciate your making this a top priority in this new legislative session and look forward to our state becoming the next to eliminate child marriage. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Miss Emily Martin
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