



## 2019 Legislative Positions

**SUPPORT – SB 272** – Prohibit the objection of placements and adoptions by agencies based on religious or moral convictions, by repealing 1973 PA 116 Secs. 14e & 14f.

Sponsors: Jeremy Moss, et al.

**SUPPORT – SB 273** – Prohibit the objection of placements and adoptions by agencies based on religious or moral convictions, by repealing 1939 PA288 Sec 23g. ch. X.

Sponsors: Dayna Polehanki, et al.

**SUPPORT – SB 274** – To allow state to take action against agencies for refusal to participate in placements and adoptions on religious or moral convictions by repealing 1939 PA280 Sec. 5a.

Sponsors: Jim Ananich, et al.

CFI Supports Senate bills 272, 273 and 274 to prohibit religious discrimination in the placement of children in foster or adoptive homes. **CFI strongly opposes the privileging of religion in policy and law, particularly the use of religious objections as a reason for exempting agencies that receive state funding from generally applicable law, especially those that protect Civil Rights.** This violates the separation of church and state and the equal protection of civil rights, including freedom of religion guaranteed to all citizens.

**SUPPORT – SB 275** – Allowing second parent adoption by amending 1939 PA 288 Secs. 24, 41 & 51, ch. X.

Sponsors: Jeff Irwin, et al.

CFI supports the addition of the right by a second parent to adopt the child of their partner, regardless of their biological relationship or marriage status. **This will protect children by ensuring that their parents have the legal standing to provide equal support under the law.** Marriage is a traditionally religious concept that some secular individuals choose not to embrace. This statute protects the freedom of expression and belief, and enables all parents, regardless of biology, to have legal standing and protections to care for their children.

**SEEKING AMENDMENT – HB 4297** – Persons authorized to solemnize marriage; expand to include a legislator.

Sponsors: Sheldon Neeley, et al.

**CFI is seeing a sponsor to add “Secular Celebrants” as persons authorized to solemnize marriage** to the proposed amendment the Michigan Marriage statute HB 4207.

**24% of Michiganders have no religious affiliation** (*Pew Religious Landscape Survey, 2012*). All Michigander should be able to celebrate their life’s most important moments in a way that affirms their deeply held beliefs. Non-religious couples should be given the ability to choose a Secular Celebrant, with whom they have a personal relationship, rather a government official, or religious leader who does not share their beliefs.



## 2019 Legislative Positions (Cont.)

**OPPOSE – SB-229/HB 4320** – Add Prohibition of “Dismemberment” Abortion by amending 1931 PA 328 Sec. 90h.

Sponsors: Tom Barrett (Senate), Pamela Hornberger (House), et al.

**OPPOSE – HB 4321/SB 230** – To make performing a “Dismemberment” Abortion a crime by amending 1927 PA 175 Sec. 16d, ch. XVII.

Sponsors: Lynn Afendoulis, (House) Kimberly LaSata (Senate), et al.

**OPPOSE – SB 165** – Ban abortion after 20 weeks by amending 1931 PA 328 entitled the “Pain capable unborn child” Act.

Sponsors: Curtis VanderWall, et al.

**OPPOSE – SR 0027** – Resolution to reject NY Reproductive Health Act & call for federal end to Late-term abortions.

Sponsors: Aric Nesbitt, et al.

CFI believes **reproductive healthcare laws should respect the autonomy of women** and be based on reason and science, not sectarian religious or pseudoscientific beliefs. We oppose these attempts to ban and criminalize a standard abortion procedure. **Politicians are not doctors and they should not be dictating medical decisions for women.**

**These bills have no scientific basis, are not aligned with accepted medical practices,** and will criminalize care that doctors recommend as the best option for their patients. Medical professionals and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose these bans.

**Women have the right to make their own reproductive choices** privately with their Doctors. Access to safe and legal abortion is critical to ensuring women have the freedom to make their own decisions and maintain economic stability for themselves and their families.

**OPPOSE – HB 4322** – Prohibit state contracting with providers that offer abortion services.

Sponsors: Pamela Hornberger, et al.

**We strongly oppose limiting who can receive funding for medical services, based on personal religious beliefs,** which infringes on the rights of women to make their own healthcare decisions. This bill will also endanger the health of the thousands of low-income Michigander’s who rely on community health providers for basic medical care.

If the goal is to prevent abortion, evidence shows that the best way to prevent unintended pregnancy, and reduce abortion rates, is to provide the widest possible access to evidence based comprehensive sex education and effective low-cost contraception. Study after study shows that the greater the access to and the lower the cost of birth control, the lower the number of both unintended pregnancies and abortions.