



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Hartford Office - 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105

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March 6, 2020

Support for House Bill 5178:

An Act Concerning Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act

Dear Chairs Stafstrom and Winfield, Vice Chairs Kasser and Blumenthal, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas, and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ and I am writing today in support of House Bill 5178, the Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA).

I am writing on behalf of the 614 congregations and more than 120,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. The Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ has been a long time supporter of LGBTQIA rights.

The CPA is about protecting children. Connecticut children are left vulnerable when they cannot secure a legal relationship to their parent(s). Connecticut's current parentage law has not kept pace with the diversity of modern families, and that leaves children vulnerable. The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA) provides the protections that LGBT parents and their children deserve. It

It is critical to secure all of God's children equally, marital and non-marital alike. There are gaps in the current law that leave children and families vulnerable so we encourage you to support this bill.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of House Bill 5178.

Blessings,

Michele Mudrick

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