



March 21, 2024

Chair Ron Latz
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3105

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

OutFront Minnesota writes in support of SF 3504 (Maye Quade). OutFront Minnesota, founded in 1987, is the state's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organization that has sought to build power within Minnesota's LGBTQ+ communities and address inequities through intersectional organizing, advocacy, education, and direct support services. We believe that this legislation is needed to update state law to reflect the modern composition of Minnesota families and the diverse ways that families are created in our state.

Many LGBTQ+ parents in Minnesota currently face significant obstacles to full recognition as parents of their own children. LGBTQ+ parents often must go through "second parent adoption" processes in order to become legal parents to their children. These processes are lengthy, costly, and place undue stress on parents and their children. The absence of a more effective alternative also makes children in LGBTQ+ families more vulnerable, as only one of their two parents is fully recognized under law. Children may face situations in which their unrecognized parent is unable to make emergency health decisions on their behalf or travel alone with them out of the state or the country.

SF 3504 draws from recommendations of the 2017 Uniform Law Commission, a broad and expert stakeholder group - including family law attorneys, child protection officials and public health experts - who came together to create a best-practice framework to establish parent-child relationships in state law. Uniform Parentage Acts similar to SF 3504 have been passed in seven other states since 2017 (and introduced in three others besides Minnesota). SF 3504 as amended begins the process of adopting these recommendations to Minnesota law.

SF 3504 as amended focuses on a few key provisions that provide a more clear, efficient pathway to legal parentage. SF 3504 ensures that children born through assisted reproduction technology (such as in vitro fertilization) have a clear route to establish their parentage. It provides clear standards for establishing parentage through gestational surrogacy. And it ensures equality for LGBTQ+ families so they can establish their parentage like other families, without costly and onerous legal procedures.



Marriage equality became law in Minnesota in 2013. The United States Supreme Court held in 2015 (*Obergefell v. Hodges*) that laws barring marriage between two people of the same sex are unconstitutional. Now, a decade later, it is time for Minnesota's laws to reflect these decisions and fully recognize LGBTQ+ families in Minnesota. We look forward to continuing to work in future sessions to adopt changes that will ensure Minnesota's parentage laws reflect the needs of all families in our state.

Thank you to Senator Maye Quade for her leadership on moving forward legislation to achieve that goal. OutFront Minnesota respectfully urges your support for SF 3504.

Sincerely,

Kat Rohn
Executive Director