

Dear

I am writing to ask that you co-sponsor A.5524 (Paulin) to end child marriage in New York. According to data obtained from the New York State Health Department, 3,853 minors were married in New York State between 2000 and 2010, and a majority of these marriages were of young girls to adult men. This is an epidemic facing not just the girls of Afghanistan, South Sudan, or Pakistan, but girls right here at home. It is vital that the loophole allowing these marriages to take place be closed, and that we act now to end this human rights abuse in our state.

As your constituent, I ask that you please sign-on now to support this legislation to ensure its passage this year. Girls who marry before the age of 18 face higher rates of domestic violence, have a higher incidence of mental and physical health problems, and are less likely to complete their education. Pregnant teen moms who marry are more likely to end up living in poverty than those who don't. This bill is not just about changing the marriage age—it is about keeping the girls of New York safe from abuse.

Ensuring that Bill A.5524 passes the New York State Assembly is imperative, and your dedication to ending child marriage in our state will be necessary to its passage.

Thank you,

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Print Name

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Signature

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Address, City, State