



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION URGING PASSAGE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PARENTAGE ACT

- WHEREAS,** Massachusetts is the only New England state to not establish clear legal parentage protections for LGBTQIA+ families and those who conceive through surrogacy, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, or other assistive means; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Under current statute, an order of adoption issued by a court would be required for the parental rights of non-biological parents to be clearly recognized; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Current discriminatory parentage laws force parents to adopt their own children, after enduring what is often already an emotionally and financially arduous process, before the Commonwealth fully recognizes the relationship; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Parentage Act (S.1133/H.1714), An Act Relative to Parentage to Promote Children's Security, has been filed by Senator Bruce Tarr and Representative Kay Khan; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Parentage Act would update state statute to clarify paths to establish parentage and is crucial toward ensuring all children can access the security of legal parentage, regardless of the circumstances of their birth; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Parentage Act would ensure greater efficiency and consistency by providing a clear standard for courts to reduce unnecessary litigation, as well as codify parentage precedent from the Supreme Judicial Court; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Legislature recessed the First Annual Session in November 2021 without taking action on the Massachusetts Parentage Act, and will convene in January 2022 for the Second Annual Session; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Passage of the Act would end the Commonwealth's status as the only New England state without updated parentage laws; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, does hereby recognize the changing medical, legal, and cultural realities of what it means to be a parent and family, and urges the Legislature to promptly pass the Massachusetts Parentage Act to recognize and affirm the rights of LGBTQIA+ families and those whose parental bonds are not based on biology; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***
- ORDERED:** That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to transmit suitably attested digital copies of this Resolution to the Massachusetts Legislature's President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, and each member of the Boston State Delegation.