

November 9, 2021

Hon. James B. Eldridge
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 511-C
Boston, MA, 02133

Hon. Michael S. Day
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 136
Boston, MA, 02133

RE: Support for An Act relative to parentage to promote children's security (S.1133 and H.1714)

Dear Chair Eldridge, Chair Day, and members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary:

Fenway Health and AIDS Action would like to go on record IN SUPPORT of An Act to parentage to promote children's security (S.1133 and H.1714), and urges you to report this bill favorably.

Founded in 1971, Fenway Health advocates for and delivers innovative, equitable, accessible health care, supportive services, and transformative research and education. We center LGBTQIA+ people, BIPOC individuals, and other underserved communities to enable our local, national, and global neighbors to flourish. Motivated by the belief that access to equitable healthcare is a right, not a privilege, Fenway Health advocates and supports initiatives on behalf of the LGBTQ community across the Commonwealth.

Current law employs language that places constraints on who can be a parent, is out of date, creates confusion and is discriminatory. Recent literature asserts that equally-recognized parents produce the most stable environments, and thus the most optimal child outcomes – regardless of the sexual orientation of the parents.^{i ii} The existing statute fails to protect environmental stability for the children of LGBTQ families, and other marginalized families.

The MA Parentage Act (MPA) is a common-sense update to Massachusetts law that ensures all children and families have equal access to establishing parentage, and corrects discrimination that exists in current state law. Massachusetts has the highest rate of births through assisted reproduction technology (ART) in the country and currently has only one statute that protects children born through ART, but it only applies to children of married couples.

Since 1983, Fenway Health has been an international pioneer in helping lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people become parents. Fenway was one of the first in the nation to offer alternative insemination services to lesbians. Today we continue to provide medical alternatives for achieving conception for the entire LGBT community, couples and singles of any sexual orientation, as well as education, resources, support networks, and referrals. This bill's passage is especially important to our clients and patients.

The MPA would ensure that children born through ART have a clear route to establish their parentage and defend the equality of LGBTQ families. Please support and favorably report **An Act relative to parentage to promote children's security (S.1133 and H.1714)**.

Sincerely,



Carl Sciortino
Vice President of External Relations
Fenway Health

ⁱ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2006.00068.x>

ⁱⁱ https://www.jstor.org/stable/43581973?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents