

February 8, 2022

To the Vermont House Judiciary Committee

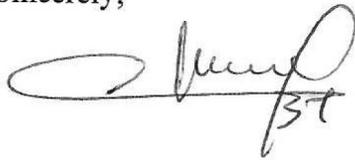
Re: In support of H631: Ending Child Marriage

Dear Chair Grad, Vice Chair Burditt and Distinguished Committee Members:

This letter is in support of H631 that aims to eliminate the harmful practice of child marriage. By allowing parents to consent for their daughters, our society disempowers and seriously endangers minors.

The Association of Africans Living in Vermont has worked over the past years to develop programs that support refugees and immigrants, some of whom have been victim of violence or forced marriage in their country of origin. It is our belief that any step that could be taken to empower young women will contribute to building a safer and healthier community. Ending Child marriage is a sound investment that measurably enhances our community quality of life and self-sufficiency. H631 will put an end to this form of violence endured by young women.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yacouba Bogre' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yacouba Jacob Bogre
Executive Director