

ACLU of Michigan Legislative Docket: LGBT Rights

The ACLU maintains a presence in Lansing that enables us to pass policies that expand civil liberties or prevent the passage of policies that are hostile to civil liberties. Through traditional lobbying techniques lobbying, advocacy, and advocacy the legislative program seeks to advance and protect our civil liberties.

The ACLU of Michigan's legislative program works on a breadth of issues. To give you an idea of what we've been up to, we have provided a brief summary, our position on the issue and where the bill is currently situation in the legislative process. We have stated our position on each bill using brief descriptors:

- **Actively Support/ Oppose:** *The ACLU considers this bill high priority and has taken direct action to support or opposing the bill. The bill has, more likely than not, seen movement in the Legislature during the current session.*
- **Support/Oppose:** *Based on its own policies, the ACLU supports or opposes the bill but has not taken an affirmative action OR the legislation has not moved through the legislature and therefore the ACLU has not needed to take direct action at this point.*
- **Remain Neutral:** *As written, the bill does include some civil liberties issues but the ACLU has taken no direct action to support or oppose the legislation.*

Religious Refusal – Senate Bill 136

Sponsor: Sen. John Moolenaar (R- Midland)

ACLU Position: **Actively Oppose**

Status: Passed by Senate Health Policy Committee, awaiting a vote by full Senate

The bill would create the "Religious Liberty and Conscience Protection Act" that allows medical facilities, health care payers/purchasers, to refrain from offering health care services and procedures based on moral or religious beliefs. Such refusal clauses are promoted as a means of protecting the consciences of those healthcare providers who have a religious or moral objection to providing some or all reproductive health services. If passed, the bill could also allow for discrimination against individual patients or groups of people, rather than specific services. The bill lacks exceptions to ensure a patient's health is never compromised by the religious objections of their healthcare provider.

More information: *also see Reproductive Rights*

http://aclumich.org/blog/2013-03-21/michigan_medical_refusal

Second Parent Adoption – [House Bill 4060](#) and [Senate Bill 457](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor), respectively

ACLU Position: **Actively Support**

Status: Referred to House Committee on Families, Children and Seniors and Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Human Services

Allows two unmarried persons to jointly adopt a child, if it is found to be in the child's best interests. Michigan's current adoption law specifically permits married couples to jointly adopt children, but says nothing regarding the right of two unmarried people to do so. Many judges have interpreted the current law as permitting only married couples to jointly adopt. This has left children without the legal protection of two parents and puts them at risk should the legal parent become incapacitated or die.