

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB163

I am writing to formally express my opposition to Senate Bill 163, which mandates the Judicial Department to study the judicial and administrative procedures necessary to implement the Uniform Parentage Act in our state. While I understand the intent behind this bill to clarify and modernize parentage laws, I believe that its implications could create more challenges than solutions for families and the legal system.

One of my primary concerns is the potential for increased complexity in an already intricate area of law. The Uniform Parentage Act, while well-intentioned, may introduce additional bureaucratic hurdles that could complicate the establishment of parentage for many families. This could lead to longer processing times and increased legal costs, which would disproportionately affect low-income families and those already navigating the complexities of the family court system.

Moreover, the bill does not adequately address the unique cultural and individual circumstances of families in our state. The existing framework for establishing parentage has evolved to meet the diverse needs of our community. Imposing a uniform standard may disregard the nuances that are critical to ensuring fair and just outcomes for all families involved, particularly in cases of non-traditional family structures.

Additionally, the study proposed in SB 163 could divert valuable resources away from pressing issues currently facing our judicial system. Rather than focusing on the implementation of a new framework, it may be more prudent to allocate these resources toward improving access to existing services and addressing backlog issues within the family courts.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider support for SB 163. It is essential that any changes to parentage laws are carefully considered, inclusive of all family types, and focused on enhancing the system rather than complicating it. I encourage you to advocate for a more tailored approach that truly reflects the needs of our diverse communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I hope you will take my concerns into account as you deliberate on the implications of SB 163.