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March 11, 2019

Representative John Lesch
Chairman, Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Division
Minnesota House of Representatives

RE: Letter of support for HF 1140

Dear Chairman Lesch and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of Family Equality Council, the nation's leading organization for LGBTQ families and those who wish to form them, we write to express our support of HF 1140.

Family Equality Council represents a community of parents, children, grandparents, and grandchildren that reaches across the United States, and our membership includes families in Minnesota. Since our founding in 1979, we have worked to change attitudes, laws, and policies to ensure that all families, regardless of creation or composition, are recognized, respected, and celebrated in all aspects of their lives. Surrogacy is an important option for same-sex couples and LGBTQ individuals when building a family and is increasingly utilized in Minnesota and throughout the country. Thus, our work includes policy advocacy and public education to ensure that surrogacy and other assisted reproductive technology is available, with fair and adequate protections for all parties involved.

HF 1140 establishes a fair and straightforward legal structure for gestational surrogacy arrangements and provides important safeguards for *all* parties involved in the surrogacy process – intended parents, gestational carriers, donors, and the children born of such arrangements. In addition to setting out the required elements of an enforceable surrogacy contract, HF 1140 places sole parental responsibility with intended parents and creates a simple process for them to obtain a judgment of parentage to establish their exclusive parental rights, providing critical legal protection for them and their children. The bill also appropriately releases from parental responsibility those who never were intended to be parents – gestational carriers and their spouse and known or anonymous egg and sperm donors.

HF 1140 is an important update to ensure that gestational surrogacy remains available and is conducted in a fair and just way that protects all parties involved. Thus, we urge the committee to pass HF 1140.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelbi Day".

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