



Office of  
**Representative Hannah E. Kane**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## **Representative Kane’s parental equality bill passes the House of Representatives unanimously**

**BOSTON** – The House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass legislation co-filed by Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury) and Representative Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown) updating the state’s parentage laws.

House Bill 4672, *An Act to ensure legal parentage equality*, was given initial approval by the House of Representatives on June 12 when it was engrossed on a vote of 156-0. The bill now heads to the Senate for its consideration.

Representative Kane said the House bill updates the state’s laws by setting clear standards for establishing the legal relationship between parents and their children under several paths, including birth, adoption, assisted reproduction, surrogacy, and other scenarios. She said this legislation will help to ensure equal treatment for same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ families by allowing them the same means of establishing parentage as heterosexual families and individuals.

“The Massachusetts Parentage Act is a critical piece of legislation for so many families in the Commonwealth, particularly LGBTQ+ families,” said Representative Kane. “By updating the Commonwealth’s parentage laws, we will provide clarity, security, and equality in the matters of parentage, reflecting the evolving realities and complexities of assisted reproduction, surrogacy and LGBTQ+ parenthood that has to date left many families vulnerable.”

Speaking on the House floor, Representative Kane shared, “Like so many people here in the Commonwealth, this legislation is personal for me. My husband Jim and I have been blessed with 3 beautiful children who are now young adults. Our parentage was easily established – the laws as they exist made it clear and easy to do so. Our beautiful, smart, sweet, tough Endicott College graduate and national collegiate rugby champion daughter Caitlin is lesbian, and if she chooses, I want her to experience the joy of being a parent someday with the same rights to establish her parentage, and to have the same legal protections, as my husband Jim and I had. I want our future grandchildren to have the security of legal parentage, regardless of the circumstances of their birth. *And I want that for all LGBTQ+ families.* For our daughter and for countless others like her, legal parentage is not just a matter of paperwork or bureaucracy—it is a matter of identity, of belonging, and of affirmation.

Representative Kane and Representative Peake co-filed H1713, *An Act to ensure legal parentage equality*, one of the bills that formed the basis for House Bill 4672. Representative Kane noted the House legislation will ensure that children in all families “are afforded the same protections, regardless of how they came into this world or who is parenting them.”

According to Representative Kane, the changes contained in House Bill 4672 are important because the ability to establish legal parentage allows individuals to play an important role in their child's lives by conferring on them the power to make decisions impacting their child's education and medical care.

The Massachusetts Parentage Act is based on the Uniform Parentage Act of 2017, which is model legislation issued by the non-partisan Uniform Law Commission that is recommended for adoption in all states to ensure uniformity in parentage protections.

House Bill 4672 sets an effective date of January 1, 2025 for implementing these changes.

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