

Action Alert!

Time-sensitive facts regarding legislation affecting Michigan's children and families.

for Child and Family Advocates

Michigan's Children
Public policy in the best interest of children

September 9, 2020



Celebrate National Kinship Month by Getting Michigan Bills Across the Finish Line

In late July, Michigan's Children and other members of the Michigan Kinship Care Coalition helped move two bills that would help to better support kinship families another step toward implementation. After already passing through the Michigan House, [House Bills 5443 and 5444](#) passed out of the Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Veterans and now wait for only action by the full Senate before being sent to the Governor for signature.

One complication: the clock is ticking. If the bills have not been signed by the Governor by the end of this calendar year, then we will have to start the process all over again in January. Bills will have to be introduced again, and both the House and Senate will have to approve the bills again.

Because we are already so close to finishing this process this year, with broad bi-partisan support of the bills, let's just tell our Senators to get it finished. The Senate leadership determine which bills will come to a vote on the floor. You need to let your Senator know to talk with those leaders and champion the bills' passage before the end of the year.

We know that there is a lot going on. We know that there are a lot of priorities, including difficult budget decisions to be made. But we also know that the current crisis has exposed so many vulnerabilities for families of all sorts, and that now is the time to move to prioritize relative caregivers and the children and youth in their care.

[Read joint testimony](#) on the bills given by several Kinship Care Coalition members, and let [your State Senator](#) know that better supporting these families is essential, and that they need the opportunity to vote now.

September is National Kinship Care Month. There couldn't be a better time for Michigan Senators to take some action to support families.

For more information, contact [Michele Corey](#) or [Deb Frisbee](#), Michigan Kinship Care Coalition Policy Co-Chairs.