



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

October 7, 2022

Michigan House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Today, I am pleased to sign a package of bills that helps our foster care and adoption services. These bills will remove barriers for families who are looking to adopt. They will add additional support for foster children. They will require trauma-informed training for guardians ad litem. And they will accelerate the pace at which children can find permanent and loving homes.

In short, these bills will improve a child-welfare system that is in urgent need of improvement. It will take bold, bipartisan action to advance our shared goal of providing a nurturing environment for the roughly 10,000 Michigan children who are in foster care and the nearly 200 children who still need an adoptive family. These bills exemplify the best of that kind of bipartisan action.

At the same time, I am returning Enrolled House Bills 5801 without my signature because it would violate the Constitution's separation of powers. I look forward to working together with stakeholders to come up with a practical solution for an advisory body that leverages child welfare expertise from around the state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gretchen Whitmer'.

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor