



## Michigan National Organization for Women

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### **MANDATORY JOINT CUSTODY IS WRONG FOR MICHIGAN'S FAMILIES**

### **DECLINE TO SIGN THE PETITION ABANDONING "BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD"**

The Michigan Board of State Canvassers is today considering a request to approve a petition to amend the Child Custody Act to replace the 'best interest of the child' factors with mandated joint physical and legal custody when divorcing parents cannot voluntarily agree on a parenting arrangement. About 15 percent of divorces involve contested child custody disputes.

We oppose a presumption of joint custody, a concept based on an ideal that is inconsistent with the conflict that pervades the relationships of many parents who seek a judicial determination of custody.

Michigan NOW supports joint custody when the parties enter into such an arrangement voluntarily and with the necessary commitment and resources to accomplish the goal of serving the best interests of the child.

We urge voters to decline to sign this wrong-headed proposal and to learn about the consequences to children and families of a state law mandating joint custody.

For more information:

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*NOW's purpose is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.*