



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS



July 7, 2017

Commissioner Jamie Pedersen
Uniform Law Commission
Drafting Committee Co-Chair for the Uniform Parentage Act Revision
Vice President and General Counsel
McKinstry Co., LLC
5005 Third Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98134

Dear Commissioner Pedersen,

The National Center for Lesbian Rights, Lambda Legal, the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & HIV Project, and GLBT Legal Advocates and Defenders are pleased to support the revised Uniform Parentage Act. Our organizations are the national and regional LGBT legal organizations that advance the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people through litigation, legislative and policy advocacy, and public education.

Our organizations believe that the revised Uniform Parentage Act represents an important improvement in the UPA and strongly support its adoption by the Uniform Law Commission and enactment by states. After the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, every state must allow same-sex couples to marry and must give same-sex spouses the same "constellation of benefits" provided to different-sex spouses. This includes the parentage protections in the UPA. The current draft of the revised UPA makes these protections equally applicable to same-sex parents and their children.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is a national non-profit law firm that advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families. NCLR has been pleased over the past year to participate as an observer in the Uniform Law Commission's project to revise the UPA. We are grateful for the opportunity to lend our expertise to reforming the law in this area.

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and everyone living with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work. The ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & HIV Project seeks to create a just society for all LGBT people and people living with HIV regardless of race or income. Through litigation, lobbying, public education, and organizing, we work to build a country where our communities can live openly without discrimination and enjoy equal rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association. Through strategic litigation, public policy advocacy, and education, GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) works in New England and nationally to create a just society

free of discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status, and sexual orientation. GLAD regularly advocates on behalf of GLBTQ parents, children, and their families.

Thank you for your work on this important revision.

Sincerely,

National Center for Lesbian Rights
Lambda Legal
The ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & HIV Project
GLBT Legal Advocates and Defenders