

RESOLUTION NO. CC 2024-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA HABRA,
CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS OPPOSITION TO CHILD MARRIAGE BY
CALLING FOR AN “18 NO EXCEPTIONS” LAW**

WHEREAS, in the United States, there is no federal law regarding child marriage, which allows each state to establish its own requirements with some states having no minimum age for marriage; and,

WHEREAS, child marriage, a formal marriage, or an informal union where one or both parties are under the age of 18 is defined as a human rights abuse by the Department of State, UNICEF and Human Rights Watch; and,

WHEREAS, according to marriage certificate data collected from all 50 states, nearly 300,000 children, some as young as 10 years old, were legally married in the United States between 2000 and 2018, mostly girls married to adult men; and,

WHEREAS, as a member of the United Nations, the United States adopted the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including a commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development goals, including Goal 5 to “*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,*” and specifically target 5.3: “*Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation*”; and,

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association has called for an end to child marriage stating “Child marriage is associated with higher rates of sexually transmitted infections, early pregnancies, divorce, and intimate partner violence than women married at age 21”; and,

WHEREAS, according to the U.S State Department, marriage before 18 is a human rights abuse, one that produces potentially lifelong repercussions for American girls involving their education, economic opportunities, and health while significantly increasing their risk of experiencing domestic violence; and,

WHEREAS, child marriage in the United States has been associated with significantly increased risk of almost all psychiatric disorders; approximately 35% of women who were married as children present with psychiatric disorders and 53% had a lifetime history of psychiatric illnesses; and,

WHEREAS, young women and girls ages 16-19 face intimate partner violence victimization rates almost three times the national average; and,

WHEREAS, nearly seventy percent of marriages entered before age 18 end in divorce; and,

WHEREAS, minors who marry early can be more likely to “discontinue their formal educations prematurely, earn low wages, and live in poverty.” Women who marry early are fifty percent more likely to drop out of high school and four times less likely to graduate from college; and,

WHEREAS, a minor's understanding of their legal rights and access to practical resources to avoid or abandon an unwanted or abusive marriage can be far more limited than adult men and women may have; and,

WHEREAS, in the state of California, there is currently no minimum age to marry and no restrictions on the age differences between the two parties (e.g., between adult men and minor girls); and,

WHEREAS, child marriage in the United States is not confined to any religious or cultural group. American children of all backgrounds are at risk in California because the law permits marriage before the age of majority; and,

WHEREAS, the overwhelming evidence of adverse effects on the minor's well-being and the risk of abusive relationships between girls and older men justifies the enactment of an "End Child Marriage Under 18 No Exceptions" law; and,

WHEREAS, the states of Delaware, New Jersey, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, and Michigan have already passed laws ending Child Marriage for all minors, without exception; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of La Habra has determined that it is in the public interest of the City to protect all minors from child marriage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of La Habra hereby calls on the California State Legislature to introduce and pass legislation to "End Child Marriage Under 18, No Exceptions".

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of March, 2024.

Daren Nigsarian
Mayor

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Barone, CMC
City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF ORANGE } SS.
CITY OF LA HABRA }

I, Rhonda J. Barone, CMC, City Clerk for the City of La Habra, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. CC 2024-__ introduced and adopted at a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Habra held on the 4th day of March, 2024, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

Witness my hand and the official seal of the City of La Habra this 4th day of March, 2024.

Rhonda J. Barone, CMC
City Clerk