[Your Name]  
[Your Address]  
[City, State, ZIP Code]  
[Email Address]  
[Phone Number]  
[Date]

Senator Dick Durbin

711 Hart Senate Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Protect Children—Amend S.4990 to Set Marriage Age at 18

Dear Senator Durbin,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding S.4990, a bill you introduced, which poses a serious threat to the fight against child marriage in the United States.

Your bill, which claims to “combat child marriage,” could actually enable it. By setting the foreign spousal visa minimum age at 16 instead of 18, this bill opens a dangerous door for predators to exploit young girls under the guise of marriage. This frightening loophole would allow American adults to marry minors overseas and bring them to the U.S., incentivizing child trafficking disguised as “compassion.”

Moreover, S.4990 provides financial incentives to states to delay ending child marriage, encouraging them to merely study the issue rather than establish 18 as the minimum marriage age with no exceptions. This precedent is unacceptable and endangers the lives and futures of countless children.

As a concerned [citizen/parent/advocate], I urge you to amend S.4990 and close these dangerous loopholes. The minimum marriage age must be 18—no exceptions.

Please stand with us in the fight to end child marriage and protect vulnerable children from exploitation. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]