

Memorandum Urging Approval

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW

Children #4

June 4, 2021

S. 3086

By: Senator Salazar

A. 3891

By: M. of A. Ramos

Senate Status: Passed

Assembly Status: Passed

Effective Date: 30th day after it shall have become a law

AN ACT to amend the domestic relations law, in relation to increasing the age of consent for purposes of marriage to the age of eighteen; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto.

LAW AND SECTIONS REFERRED TO: Section 15-a of the domestic relations law.

THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW SUPPORTS THIS LEGISLATION AND URGES ITS APPROVAL.

On behalf of the NYSBA Children & the Law Committee, I want to begin by thanking all of the Senators and Assemblymembers who sponsored and supported this important legislation. Initially, in 2017, legislation was passed to increase the age of consent for purposes of marriage to the age of 17. This legislation, however, stopped short of the full protection required for children from child marriage in New York. The current legislation (S3086) would correct that, bringing New York in line with other States, and more importantly, it would provide New York's children, especially our girls, with the protection that they are currently lacking. New York's requirement for parental consent provides little to no protection in situations where parents are pressuring or forcing a child to marry. New York must do more to protect our most vulnerable citizens, our children. This Committee agrees with the justification for this Bill set forth in the Sponsor Memo.

Based on the foregoing, the New York State Bar Association Committee on Children and the Law **SUPPORTS** this legislation and **URGES ITS APPROVAL** by the Governor.