Dear [Senator/Representative],

I am writing to urge you to end child marriage in [State]. Between the years 2000 and 2018, nearly 300,000 girls under the age of 18, who are minors designated as children, were married in the US, many of them to adult men.

Girls who get married as children, compared to women who marry over age 21:

* are more likely to be beaten by their spouses;
* are more likely to live in poverty;
* are less likely to graduate from high school or college;
* are at increased risk for psychiatric disorders;
* and face a 23% higher risk of heart attack, diabetes, cancer, and stroke.

Children who marry are often trapped. They cannot get a job, a car, a driver’s license, or sign a lease. Domestic abuse shelters cannot accept minors, and staff at children’s shelters often must inform parents of the child’s location. Girls attempting to flee abusive relationships have nowhere to go.

It is time to end the exploitation of children through child marriage. I call on you to pass comprehensive legislation to protect our state’s children and to end child marriage.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]