



Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling about child marriage in California. May I speak with the [elected official] or a legislative aide?

If yes,

Hi, I am calling to encourage [elected official] to help protect California's children by prohibiting marriage under the age of 18. Our state has the sixth highest rate of child marriage per capita in the country, with 5.5 out of every 1,000 fifteen-to-seventeen year-olds being married. There is **no minimum age for marriage** in California!

When this occurs in other countries, our State Department deems it a violation of fundamental human rights but here robbing a little girl or boy of their childhood is perfectly legal. Marriage doesn't just ruin their childhoods, girls who marry early are 50 percent more likely to drop out of high school and four times less likely to receive a college education. They are also more likely to live in poverty and they are **three times more likely to be beaten** by their husbands than women married after 21.

Please encourage [elected official] to sponsor meaningful legislation which unequivocally bans marriage for minors. Thank you for your time. Have a wonderful day.

If no, leave a msg:

That's OK. I just wanted to let [elected official] know that child marriage is still a problem in our state and call on them to sponsor legislation banning marriage under the age of 18. **The United States' State Department considers marriage before age eighteen to be a "human rights abuse."** Here in California, we have no minimum age for marriage. Our state has the sixth highest rate of child marriage per capita in the country, with 5.5 out of every 1,000 fifteen-to-seventeen year-olds being married. Child marriage particularly impacts girls who are often married to adult men, and they suffer economically, educationally, and physically. Please encourage [elected official] to protect California's kids.

*\*\*\* If you live in the district of the elected official you are contacting, be sure to tell them.*