

Catholic Community Services

A Forever Home for Everyone

Senator Bates, Representative Nathanson, members of the committee, for the record my name is Aubrey Boyce. I am 18 years old and a senior at McNary High School here in Salem.

I was neglected and abused as a baby and placed in foster care when I was 18 months old. I went back to live with my mom when I was 2 and half years old. My mom wasn't able to care for me because of her health so I reentered foster care again when I was three years old. After about a year the State sent me to live with grandma. She struggled with her health too and so she sent me to live with my aunt and uncle when I was five years old. Unfortunately my aunt was an alcoholic and drug addict so that placement didn't last very long. Grandma took me back and tried to care for me and my older brother but grandma health was bad and she died when I was seven years old. My mom passed away four days after my grandma died. As you can imagine I was in shock. I remember hiding under a table because I didn't want anyone to find me and take me away to another new place.

I ended up being placed back with that same aunt and uncle again. My aunt passed away when I was 11 years old. My uncle was never around. There was no food in the house so I just roamed around the neighborhood getting into trouble.

Eventually I was placed back into foster care. By then I was too afraid to let anyone care for me because everyone who tried had either walked out on me or died.

That began to change though when I went to live at one of Catholic Community Services Community Homes. It hasn't all been good, but they have kept their word and didn't give up on me. I am going to graduate from high school this year. I have a part time job that I love, I have good friends, and I have my driver's license. I plan to go on to college next year and Catholic Community Services has promised that they will stand behind me just like a good parent would until I am out of college and I can support myself. I feel confident about my future and I don't want to let the people who care about me down.

I urge you to support HB 3445. I can assure you that until I had a safe, stable, nurturing home I didn't trust anyone but now I have a good home and I have hope.


Thank you for listening to my story.

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