



Oregon
FosterYouth
C O N N E C T I O N

MEASURE: SB 123
EXHIBIT: 4
S. HEALTHCARE & HUMAN SERVICES
DATE: 3/21/13 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Kindred

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Patrick Lamarr Kindred I am a junior at the University of Oregon. I seek to gain a degree in law so that I can continue to be an advocate and make changes in society like the one I'm currently after! I am here with the Oregon Foster Youth Connection and would like to explain why I support SB123.

On behalf of foster youth in Oregon, I would like to say thank you again for hearing our story and giving us a chance to advocate for our beliefs. I have aged out of foster care so this bill has no direct impact on my immediate future but I still believe it is very important to implement. The reason why it's important to implement is that it establishes the feeling that you care.

SB123 is more important than just making rights for youth! When growing up in the system I often felt like no one cared about me, no one had an interest in my wellbeing. I used to have to catch the bus or walk to my appointments, which would be fine if I didn't also have to get to school at a decent time! You see, as a kid, I did not know my foster parents were supposed to help me shop for clothes or even get me clothes, or help provide transportation to my appointments. I now understand that some of my rights were being violated but that was not clear to me at the time.

The only thing I was ever told was what I could NOT do. As a kid growing up in foster care, you already have to navigate a very complicated and challenging system. It is really hard to do this when you don't know that anyone is supporting you and rooting for you. As a foster care child, all you want to know is that someone has your back. The state claims to have its children's back and by all means I want to believe them.

That is why I ask you to pass SB 123 and give us, the children of Oregon the hope and belief that you are the parents that have our backs. SB123 holds our foster parents to a standard that says you must treat these kids like normal people by giving them the rights they already have in law. By educating foster children about their rights, and setting up a grievance procedure if their rights are violated, we make one solid push to give foster kids safety and protection. That's the very minimum any parent wants for their kid. That is why I ask you as the parents of the children of Oregon to please help pass SB123 so that foster youth understand their rights in care.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Patrick Lamarr Kindred