



MEASURE: SB 618
EXHIBIT: 10
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March 2015

Re: Support for SB618

To: Chair Sara Gelser and the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

I am the Executive Director of Jackson Street Youth Shelter, Inc. We serve runaway and homeless youth in Benton and Linn County with shelter and outreach serving youth ages 10 - 24. Our mission is to promote safety, stability, and well-being for youth. We work to prevent homelessness by showing a path to long-term success through building positive relationships and skills for self-sufficiency.

One of our crucial services to aid in this long-term success is to help youth get their ID's so that they can apply for jobs and other important life skills. We need this bill to aid the youth obtain the documents they need. Generally, you have to have an ID to get a birth certificate and a birth certificate to get an ID. If a youth has a guardian willing/able to sign the birth certificate document form then this isn't an issue, but when you are an unaccompanied youth or just plain don't have a caring guardian in your life this process can be painful and extensive. When working with older youth 18+ on obtaining these documents, a guardian signature is no longer an option even if they do have one. Alternative forms of ID such as a current school ID do not often work.

Recent Examples:

- A youth living with grandparent but legal guardian in another state can't use parents who can't afford to help or are unwilling. This youth needs an ID to test for GED at community college.
- A young adult needed her ID and social security card but didn't have her birth certificate and wasn't in contact with her mother because she had been taken from her as a small child and fostered by her grandmother. She wasn't in school anymore so we couldn't use a school ID as an alternative. Luckily, the grandmother

Making a Difference in the Lives of our Youth