

Submitter: Miranda Gilly
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB556

Hello,

My name is Miranda Gilly. Thank you all for being here today for such an important meeting.

I am for the bill being passed to recover the loss of support that is suppose to go to our most vulnerable kids in the world - foster kids like us.

I grew up in a home that was chaotic and abusing and that home life left me with sadness and a life of emptiness. Fast forward a few years I was in foster care being taken away from my biological mother who was a hoarder and wasn't ready to have kids and her plate was to full - my biological father was a drug user and alcoholic who was addicted to porn and abuse - and I grew up with two parents who needless to say were not ready or accepting of having children nor wanted them.

My mother got arrested one day Halloween I remember this like it was yesterday - Coming home from school only to be told you have five minutes to grab one thing and seeing bright red flashing lights in another direction with your mother in the backseat - I knew what was happening but the kid in me wasn't awake or aware.

I went through years of being abused by my birth parents and years of wondering why -

That day my siblings and I got taken away from our birth mother and placed into foster care.

We were taken away around 5pm and then taken to a building where we sat for hours till like closing.

They had to find placement for me and my siblings late hours and in a hurry because other families were smooshed in the same building with the same situation - they were being taken away due to domestic abuse at home.

We finally got taken to our foster home where more abuse happened - and then it continued to be a cycle of another foster home another abusive household.

I was passed to three different foster homes from what I can recall and all of them abusive.

I grew up at age 4 years old protecting my biological mother from her abusive husband - leaning over her body protecting her. I went through years of trauma from my home life - started school in third grade only to work hard and even harder to graduate and pursue myself or what I had going for me at the time. Through all of my years as a foster kid receiving help would have been nice.

It was hard navigating the world at a young age with all the trauma I've been through but on top of that alone with no resources and no support from people who wanted me to succeed - my foster parents didn't support me which made me have to do it all on my own which was hard.

This grant being passed will change so many lives including mine and it's taken me

till being an adult and being out of the system and doing some digging to recognize how that money could have impacted my life at these stages and what I was going through.

These finances that the state had under my legal name as the representative payee or whatever you would like to call it designated me to allow to receive funds for support for my life and stages of life essentially but come to find out went straight to other people and other needs.

I was never given any financial resources as a kid.

This income ongoing could have provided the clothes off my back the food in my belly and a warm home to come home to at the end of a rainy dark night. This grant is going to change my life and so many lives out there. When your lost in this world to begin with because you didn't get to chose the life you were given at birth - it makes you want to create the change you wanted to see when you came in this world - growing up at such a young age and living in foster homes where foster parents could have supported you and provided for you and made sure you were stable enough when you turned legal age would have set me up for a better future - instead I was forced to work my butt off alone going through life alone. This bill will provide something I've been missing my whole life - support. And that's why I'm for passing the bill Sara has Proposed to change our world and provide hope to those who are lost but can be found.