

Written testimony RE SB 585 from Kellian Tonetti

Dear Senators,

My name is Kellian Tonetti. My spouse and I are foster parents to 2 girls in the system. We are approaching the 2 year anniversary of being in care for the older one. The younger one was born on February 24th 2018, spent about 6 weeks in the NICU at University of Maryland Hospital and then came to live at our house. Both girls are still wards of the state.

We have been fortunate to be able to provide consistent care for these two people but 725 days is too long to not have a permanent home. Unfortunately mom and dad are not in a place to reunify with their children for a variety of reasons. Kinship care is also not an option thought relationships with family members who are open to it have been retained. My spouse and I have been open to adopting these 2 girls since it became apparent around 9 months of care that mom and dad would not be able to reunify. We are still waiting for that opportunity.

A change in the bill would give better options for children. Foster care is about providing the best options for children. Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Kellian Tonetti