

The Honorable Chair
Delegate Ben Barnes
House Appropriations Committee
121 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**FAVORABLE - SUPPORT of House Bill 628
Human Services - Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth Program -
Establishment**

To the Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Michael Lent, I am a resident of Parkville in District 08. I am writing to name my support for HB 628 the "Human Services - Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth Program - Establishment" bill. This bill would establish a Universal Basic Income (UBI) program of \$1,000 a month for transition age youth in the Department of Human Services. Young adults age out of the foster care system in the state of Maryland at age 21 but can choose to leave care at the age of 18. Many young adults who age out of care face many negative outcomes due to a lack of financial resources. Individuals aging out of foster care face higher rates of homelessness or housing insecurity, low-income, unemployment or lack of gainful employment, lack of access to health care, higher rates of mental unwellness, lack of higher education, lack of social support, and financial instability.

Maryland can help lead the way to provide innovative and equitable solutions for our young adults aging out of foster care. HB849 provides a more secure back stop for youth aging out of foster care allowing them to achieve economic security.

I ask the Appropriations Committee to give HB 628 a favorable report.

Thank you for your time,
Michael Lent
Parkville, MD 212134