

HB 369 / SB 586

Dear Judiciary Committee Members:

I support MD House Bill 369/SB586. In one of our placements, the section regarding the right to receive full information on the history of the child would have been most helpful. Our local Department of Social Services contacted us regarding a 12-year-old girl who needed a home for a short time and we agreed to her being placed with us. It quickly became evident that the girl was 13 years old and the short time extended into several months. As time went on, we realized that the girl had emotional problems that we were unaware of, unprepared for, and ill-equipped to help her with. These problems made it difficult to also care for the three-year-old girl already placed with us. We insisted that our DSS make other arrangements for her. It particularly saddens me because, after her placement, I realized that I was acquainted with the family. I can't help but wonder if, with a fuller knowledge of her background, we could have given her the help she needed or at the very least prevented even more disruption of her life. Direct access to court documents can truly help the kids in foster care.

Sincerely,

Paul Booth, a Maryland Resource Parent in Washington County

1229 Frederick St., Hagerstown, MD 21740

p.booth@myactv.net

- 
- 
- 
-