

Good afternoon,

My name is Anne Roof. My husband and I are foster parents in Cecil County. We live at 22 Jones Creek Lane, Elkton, MD. We have had a 2 year old boy in our care for the past 26 months. His case is no where near a permanent decision being made. For 2 years, at every hearing, postponements have been granted. At the last hearing when I could sense that it was about to be postponed once again, I was devastated. No child deserves to have his life in limbo for years on end. No one in the courtroom even tried to stand up for what would be in his best interest- to move ahead with the hearing and make a decision so that his case could progress. As his foster parents, we have been heartbroken that we have not had the opportunity to speak in court or hire our own lawyer so that our voice can be heard. Passing this bill will benefit so many foster children in Cecil County by allowing their foster parents- their full-time care givers- an opportunity to be a part of the team and to advocate for them in a way we have not been able to before.