

Bill Number: HB1205

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Support

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF KATHLEEN PREST, LCSW-C

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1205

I write in support of House Bill 1205 which would update current regulations regarding Therapeutic Foster Care placements to allow up to four children placed into one foster home.

Currently, Therapeutic Foster Care Providers can accept two placements into their home, and if the TFC agency would like to move toward additional placements a lengthy and involved variance application must be completed. This application involves paperwork from any LDSS agencies who currently have youth placed in the home, paperwork from the TFC agency seeking to accept another placement in to the home, and a review process. The proposed change in family law would open additional beds for youth within the foster care system who are in need of a therapeutic level of care without needing to follow the lengthy and time consuming variance process. While not all Therapeutic Foster Homes are suited for four children, this would enable those who can, to do so in a more timely manner. The time saved in these situations would have a direct and positive impact for children awaiting placement.

I urge a favorable report on House Bill 1205.