

March 3, 2025

House Ways & Means Committee

HB1221 - Child Care Scholarship Program - Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Pilot Program - Establishment

Position: SUPPORT

Hello,

Please allow me share my experiences with teen moms trying to better themselves by completing their high school education, higher education and employment.

I have been a CONCERN foster parent for many years. My experience with the young moms attempting to get child care vouchers is that they are met with many road blocks which in many cases they become discouraged and decide not to proceed. The result is the young mother not pursuing higher education or employment and relying on the system for their livelihood.

The requirements in my humble opinion are not conducive for the teen moms being motivated to strive for more. They cannot apply for vouchers unless they have a schedule set in place. The majority of foster parents have careers, therefore, cannot care for the young mother's children/babies during the day. I always encourage the young moms to go to college or seek employment. However, the current requirements are that the mom submit their current schedule when applying for childcare vouchers. My personal experience is that they are not attending school or have employment due to not having childcare, therefore, they do not have a schedule.

Also, the foster parent is required to submit personal financial information. I am not willing to do that. Although, I want to help the young moms, unfortunately, from past experiences, you never know when the relationship will suddenly change and the young mom and baby leave your home. Therefore, I am not comfortable or willing to submit my personal information.

It is my hope that there can be some type of exception for teen moms in foster care who may not meet the current requirements.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Bagley