

April 16, 2022
22290 Keefer St.
Southfield, MI 48033

The Honorable Rodney Wakeman
N-1198 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Wakeman,

The Foster Care and Adoption Services Act (Section 3b) is pending in the Committee of Families, Children and Seniors. The bill became effective in the state of Michigan on January 1, 1995. I wholeheartedly support this bill and the efforts to keep children in foster care connected to their families and fictive kin.

A primary goal of the foster care system is to reunify children with their biological family. In most cases, foster care is rarely considered an ideal long-term placement option for children. Still, recent estimates suggest that as many as 25% of youth who enter care will stay in care until they are too old to remain. Some estimates suggest over 500,000 children enter the foster care system every year with many of them encountering mild to severe emotional, mental, and physical health concerns. A focus on strengthening the attachment between the foster child and parent could assist in alleviating many of these concerns.

Keeping foster children connected to their families is essential for reunification because it helps to reestablish and maintain family ties. The transition from removal to reconnection to reunification is accomplished by gradually increasing the amount of time the child has with the biological parents until he or she eventually returns to the family.

The passing of this bill will ensure efforts are made to maintain a familial connection for the children in foster care. It will give them a sense of security and stability to know that all efforts have been made to keep the connection to the biological family or fictive kin.

Please move forward with this matter to ensure the children in foster care are connected to and engaging with their families.

Sincerely,

Camille Williams

Camille Williams
22290 Keefer St.
Southfield, MI 48033

440.522.5622
cswilliams0520@gmail.com