

House Bill #5620 an Act Raising Child Support Age Limit

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Dear Human Service Committee,

Hi, my name is Linda Gabelman and I am a single mother with four children. My children are ages nineteen, eighteen, eighteen, and eleven. My three eldest children live in my home 24/7 and my youngest child spends one and a half days with his father every other weekend. In June, three of my children will graduate from High School, and two will be preparing for college. My nineteen year old has disabilities and will continue to live in my home. As the custodial parent, all of the financial expenses concerning college preparation and application have been my responsibility.

At age eighteen, a child is nowhere near ready to be financially independent. Therefore, it would be in the best interest of the child if the child support laws were changed. Financial responsibility for children eighteen and over should not fall only on the custodial parent. Many states have already taken steps to change this law. For example, in New York child support continues to be paid until age 21. Also, in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, child support is paid until age 23-24 for full time college students. Connecticut is an expensive state to live in, so it makes sense for the child, who can't be financially independent, that the custodial parent continues to receive child support. If child support laws are changed it should be retroactive. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,  
Linda Gabelman