

RE: Bill 5691

February 22, 2009

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing this letter in support of Bill 5691 to help children adopted from the foster care system to receive financial support to attend a state college.

My husband and I did foster care and know the challenges these children face. These children come from different ethnic, financial and family status backgrounds, but what they all have in common is losing their families. They are placed in homes with people that are strangers to them, but for some children they become their new family. No matter how much love and attention is given to these children there is always a part of them that's missing.

Having to start of life this way is difficult enough, many children don't graduate high school because of the trauma they endured during their childhood. But some children do well and have the desire and drive to attend college. They and their adopted family may not always have the resources to achieve this goal. With your help these children could have this chance.

Currently there is a law on the books that children adopted through foster care after December 31, 2004 can receive free college tuition. I don't know why this date was selected, but I do know it needs to be expanded to allow more children access to these funds. If these children have the ability and desire to go on to college lets give them that chance.

The State of Connecticut helped find these children good home, now let's help them get a good education and turn what was once a terrible situation into a positive outcome.

**PLEASE PASS PROPOSED BILL 5691 - An Act Concerning
Postsecondary Tuition Assistance and Special Need Subsidies
for Adopted Children**

Sincerely,


Mary Carson Hudson
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