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Testimony for Public Hearing
Human Services Committee
February 24, 2009

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H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning the Transition of Care and Treatment of Children and Youth from the Department of Children and Families to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

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H.B. 6415 An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for the Department of Children and Families to Place Abused and Neglected Children in the Care of Families Rather Than Institutions

Hello, my name is Carol Gee and I am an advocate, and I am writing to you in reference to HB5416, An Act Concerning the Transition of Care and Treatment of Children and Youth from the Department of Children and Families to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. It is crucial for children and young adults who are involved with the Department of Children and Families to be transitioned to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This may be one way that we can fight homelessness.

My other concern is HB 6415. This is good and beneficial for children who are abused and neglected, because they can be placed with relative caregivers or qualified foster parents and this would save the state a lot of money, rather than placing them in institutions, and group homes. The Pilot program allows for children in institutional settings to be placed and to be transferred into family settings.