

HB 6666 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO IDENTITY DOCUMENTS BY HOMELESS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Public Health Committee

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Hello, my name is Reyna Sanabria. I am 22 years old and I am a part of Youth S.P.E.A.K.S. (Supporting Policies and Enriching Any Kind of Services) at the Center for Children's Advocacy. We advocate on issues affecting youth and young adults who are homeless. I have experienced homelessness since the age of 12. It is not easy to be homeless and it's more difficult when we don't have the proper documentation required to get benefits like medical insurance, food stamps, jobs, housing, and even education.

Homeless youth and young adults have a problem with getting birth certificates. A birth certificate is a primary document you need for almost everything. If you don't have a birth certificate you can't get a State ID, which you need for a job. You also need a birth certificate for other things like a permit, driver's license, and passport. We all know that having a job is keeping us out of homelessness. A birth certificate and/or State ID cost money and homeless youth and young adults don't have enough, or any at all, to get them. To some youth, it's really hard to get back our birth certificate from our family members, or maybe we have lost it in the process of becoming homeless.

I support sections 70-72 of this bill because it allows all of us to do and be better.

