

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

Public Health Committee

March 29, 2021

My name is Nathaniel Velazquez. I am part of the 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 experiencing homelessness. I am 24 years old and experienced homelessness in December 2019 until recently.

The priority when you are homeless is to find a place to live. However, without a job, that mission becomes impossible to succeed. A job requires a State ID and to have this, we need a birth certificate. Either document requires a cost that we can afford. This bill will help us to get a certified copy of our birth certificate and State ID without paying for it. That will open our doors to many opportunities like work, school, training, food stamps benefits, and others.

We need you to pass sections 70-72 of this bill. This fee waiver will give all youth and young adults who are homeless the opportunity to move on in a positive direction.