

Committee on Children

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6182

AN ACT EXTENDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE POSTSECONDARY

Title: EDUCATION EXPENSES OF FOSTER YOUTH.

Vote Date: 2/25/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Appropriations

PH Date: 2/6/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Mary Welander

Rep. Rebecca Martinez

Rep. Sarah Keitt

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would change the maximum age at which a foster youth can qualify for funding for their postsecondary education from age twenty-one to age twenty-six. This applies to foster youths who qualify for the postsecondary education program and continue to meet the program's requirements. It would also allow these individuals to receive funding to complete this education from twenty-three to twenty-eight years of age. This would allow more people to be eligible to receive funding if they started their education later.

HB 6182 aims to help individuals who were not able to begin their postsecondary education immediately after high school due to challenges related to their time in foster care. By expanding the age of eligibility, this would allow a greater number of people to qualify for this funding.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Department of Children and Families Commissioner, Jodi Hill-Lilly](#) opposes this bill because it would bring unbudgeted costs to the department. Not only would the department need to fund additional schooling, but they also would need to hire additional staff. The department cannot take on these costs.

[Office of the Child Advocate, Christina Ghio](#) supports this bill because there are many reasons why a foster youth may need to begin their education later due to the trauma they encountered over their lifetimes. Helping them get access to an education can help end the cycle of poverty.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Annalisa Arias](#) supports this bill because only three to four percent of former foster youth gets a four-year degree. This bill would allow them some time to get stability in their lives before starting school while still funding their education to help them overcome challenges from their youth.

[William Lee](#) supports this bill because there are many barriers in education for foster children and this bill would help remove some of those barriers by giving foster youth time to adjust and get their plans on track.

[Teresa Marek](#) supports this bill as a grandparent that became a foster parent to two grandchildren.

[Children With Incarcerated Parents Initiative, Kate Mazzotta](#) supports this bill because many children in foster care have experience adverse childhood experiences such as parental incarceration and need additional support to overcome those obstacles.

[Jennifer Fell](#) supports this bill because foster children need more time to adjust to their circumstances and therefore may progress through school at a slower pace.

[Connecticut Voices For Children Research and Policy Director, Emily Knox](#) supports this bill because it helps to provide foster youth will tools to overcome the hardships they faced in their childhoods.

[Alison Rivera](#) supports this bill.

[Jennifer Toirac](#) supports this bill as a grandparent that has raised their granddaughter since she was a baby and is on disability.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

