



Senate of Pennsylvania

Senator LeAnna M. Washington

4th Senatorial District

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 14, 2010
To: All Senators
From: Senator LeAnna M. Washington
Subject: Co-sponsorship request - **Extension in Foster Care Services**

I will reintroduce SB 923 & SB 924, legislation which voluntarily extends eligibility for foster care services up until age 21, rather than the previous limit of age 18.

Most foster youth are kicked out of the program and left on their own at the age of 18, so it is no surprise that more than half of former foster youth are arrested or in jail, according to a 2010 study from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

A need exists based on the facts that more than half of foster youth will be unemployed and more than 25% will be homeless on turning 18.

Well-regarded academic studies have shown that when young adults stay in foster care until age 21, their outlook for education, housing stability and mental health dramatically improve.

Those three additional years of support help keep these young people safe, in school, off the streets and out of jail. A 2009 University of Washington study concluded that supporting California youth in foster care after age 18 returns \$2.41 for every state dollar committed.

To indicate your interest in co-sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Code Walker's office by calling 714.077.4627 or emailing walker@psenate.com