



Guiding youth down the road to living independently.

Dear Chair Schultz and Committee Members,

I'm writing to you in support of HF4217. C2i serves youth in and aging out of foster care ages 14 until their 25th birthday. Most of the youth C2i works with age out with little to no connection to supportive adults or a permanent family connection. We hope that this bill could provide more culturally appropriate homes where the youth we serve feel safe, heard, connected to their communities, and can build permanent relationships.

Foster parents and kinship caregivers play a vital role in caring for and impacting the development of children who are unable to remain at home. As a community-based organization, we see the direct impact a supportive home and connection to family and kin has on young people. It is imperative that we both continue to increase support for kinship caregivers, foster care providers, and the wider foster care system.

HF4217 is a critical investment in creating a supportive network of diverse caregivers and supporting families and kin who make the decision to care for a young person in need. Youth deserve to have caregivers that are racially, culturally, and religiously similar to them and supportive of them building communities of support.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Karina Hunt
Strategic Planning and Growth Coordinator
Connections to Independence (C2i)