

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Danny Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis,

I am writing on behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal budget and policy decisions, to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Foster Youth Driving Act (H.R. 2512).

Learning to drive is a rite of passage to young adulthood for millions of youth. It brings new levels of independence and opportunities, enabling young people to take themselves to school, work, and extra-curricular activities. Studies have shown that kids with access to a car do better in school, get better jobs, have more college options, and have more successful careers.

Teens in foster care often face significant barriers to obtaining a driver's license. Some of these barriers include difficulty securing the parental or guardian permission needed to enroll in driver's education or to secure an insurance policy, as well as an inability to pay for the various fees associated with becoming a driver. Without a driver's license, young people in foster care often miss out on age-appropriate opportunities that contribute to success in adulthood.

The Foster Youth Driving Act provides prospective foster parents with training to help prepare a young person to drive. It also provides funds to assist with this process such as assistance with vehicle insurance costs, driver's education class and testing fees, and fees related to obtaining a driver's license. Reducing these barriers will increase the sense of normalcy for foster youth and empower them to seek opportunities of higher education and gainful employment.

We applaud you for recognizing the level of importance that a driver's license can have in the life of an adolescent or young adult in foster care. We look forward to working with you on this and other proposals to improve the well-being of America's children and youth. If you have any further questions please contact Rricha Mathur, Rricham@firstfocus.org.

Sincerely,



Bruce Lesley
President