

Good day. My name is Bobbie Friedemann. I am a foster parent in Johnson County Kansas. I want to just take a few moments of your time to explain what I personally have experienced as a foster parent of teens. We have had over 45 placements with 13 of them being long term so far. Our struggle with almost every single placement is getting a hold of original documents so that they can get a driver's permit. This process can take months and months especially now with Covid regulations and offices being closed. Once the documents are acquired there is a wait and high cost associated with driver's education for each of them. These kids are waiting and waiting to be like their peers because of cost of driver's education, wait times for original court documents so that original social security cards can be requested.

This fall I personally had 3 teens in one driver's education class at \$435 each. This on top of the out of pocket cost for wisdom teeth removal because state insurance doesn't cover the anesthesia, car insurance, braces and many other expenses that are forgotten however very necessary in the teen fostering world for them to live normal lives and be taken care of properly.

This bill if passes would help thousands of teens not only get their licenses in my opinion faster but in that task alone would improve their self confidence and make it a little easier to be a regular kid. I currently have (2) 18 year olds that JUST got their permits. Both have been in care for an extended period of time. I personally believe that if driver's education was paid for they both would have had the chance prior to coming to my home.

I very much appreciate your time.