



To: Representative Tomei, Chair of the Human Services Committee
Cc: Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing
From: Michael H. Balter
Date: April 3, 2013
Subject: Testimony on House Bill 3244

Dear Chair Tomei and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to thank you for holding a hearing for HB 3244.

This bill allows state resources to help homeless young people ages 18-21. Currently these services are only available until the young people are 18 years old. As you are well aware, most homeless young people require continued assistance in their late teens and early twenties. This change is consistent with allowing youth in foster care to access services until 21.

We have talked with DHS staff and have developed amendments to address their concerns. There is no new fiscal implication because this bill does not require services to 21 years of age, but allows it. The resources available to implement the current statute are adequate to support this change.

I will attend the hearing on April 4th.

I am currently the chair of the Homeless and Runaway Youth for the Alliance of Children's Programs. This affinity group represents seven provider agencies throughout the state that provide the majority of services to this population.

If you have any questions about this bill or services for this population please contact me at your convenience.

I have attached a brief summary of the Alliance member's impact.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Balter

Michael H. Balter
President & CEO of Boys & Girls Aid
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