Brian Morgantini Seaside, OR HB 2451

Testimony

My name is Brian Morgantini and I spent about 17 years in foster care without getting adopted. I am 22 years old and now advocate on behalf of foster youth in America. I work for a non-profit and spend my time writing and traveling.

When I aged out of foster care, I had medical insurance while I was living in Pennsylvania. But shortly after aging out, I had no place to live. When I was offered a job that involved moving to a different state, I took it. Once I arrived, I realized Oregon doesn't cover out of state foster youth. I have a decent job, take care of myself and yet I have to worry about getting sick or hurt. I am afraid to go to the hospital or dentist because I know the resulting bill will not be in my ability to cover.

Young adults who are my age and have their parent's insurance can move out of state for school, work, as a life choice or for any reason and not lose their insurance. The child welfare system became my guardian and that has left me uninsured only I took an opportunity to work and follow my passion somewhere other than Pennsylvania.

One day, I hope to travel the world while implementing positive change where I am. As a former foster youth, I don't have the same supports that many of my peers have in reaching their dreams. I believe healthcare should be one of the supports that I can count on.

