

Chair Williams and members of the Committee,

Before I came to Safe Place, I was going through a really hard time. I was having a hard time at home and had to leave. My dad and I were staying at various hotels and it was costing a lot of money. It was hard to keep doing that and keep moving around to different hotels. My dad heard about Safe Place from someone helping us out and I came here. I wish I had come here sooner because I wouldn't have had to move around so much. I feel really secure here. It's like a safe place, very aptly named. There's good food, warmth and the people are really nice. Staff have super supportive. I like socializing with the other kids here. There's always a whole bunch of laughs and it's a good time. If I wasn't at Safe Place, I probably would be living out of a car right now. This couldn't have come at a better time.

Places like Safe Place are important for kids in tough situations, so they have somewhere to fall back on. This bill would help by giving more resources for more kids so they don't have to be turned away. I can imagine there are a lot of people to be helped and this would help a lot with that. Maybe there could be more places opened to help more kids like me.

Thank you

Jack Youngblood