THE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY'S 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC)

Extended Foster Care, or EFC, is a program to support young people who are dependents of the state when they turn 18.

WE'RE ADVOCATING TO: AMEND ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM, PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES, STREAMLINE STIPENDS, ADDRESS DELAYS, AND PREVENT INVOLUNTARY EXITS FOR ENHANCED PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS.

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

We are supporting the Department of Licensing (DOL) as they advocate to increase accessibility to apply for a driver's license.

WE'RE ADVOCATING WITH THE DOL TO: EXPAND THE Eligibility on the required adult signature for a DRIVER's license application to include a "Responsible adult".

FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES (FC)

Young people in Washington state who are in foster care need access to financial literacy skills and a bank account at a young age. This would help them be successful when they leave care, and without these resources, they can become trapped in a cycle of poverty.

WE'RE ADVOCATING TO: PASS LEGISLATION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES (DCYF) TO ESTABLISH BANK ACCOUNTS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE AGES 14+ WITH A MONTHLY ALLOWANCE DEPOSITED, PAIRED WITH FINANCIAL EDUCATION BEGINNING AT 12 YEARS OF AGE.

THE BRIDGE

The Bridge Residential is a proposal to align with The Bridge Coalition designed to ensure young people facing unaccompanied homelessness and exiting inpatient behavioral health treatment have safe housing and services to avoid being discharged into homelessness or emergency based services.

WE'RE ADVOCATING WITH THE BRIDGE COALITION & Northstar advocates to: Create two 6-10 bed Community-based housing programs that young People can stay in for 1-90 days as they identify Long-term housing. Behavioral health services, Consultation, and technical assistance will be Provided. The budget request is \$3 million annually.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE TO CONTACT: Charles Smith, Mockingbird's Public Policy & Advocacy Director Charles.Smith@MockingbirdSociety.org

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