



Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center
508 Kennedy Street, NW | Rm. 303 | Washington, DC 20011
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TESTIMONY
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Preserving Our Kids Equity Through Trusts Amendment Act of 2022

September 22, 2022

Good day Chairperson Nadeau and council members of the Committee on Human Services.

My name is Donna Flenory. I am a veteran CFSA foster parent of 22 years and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC).

FAPAC supports the POKETT bill, and is thrilled that Washington, DC will follow other states who have taken the initiative to ensure that youth in foster care receive their Social Security benefits, which is federal law. Being a valued partner of CFSA, we are also glad that local funds will be used to replace the shortage that this bill might create for the child welfare agency so that services to youth and families are not diminished. We are also glad to see that the bill includes a financial literacy component and collaboration with the youth so that they are putting the funds to the best use.

In our nation, 20,000 youth age out of the foster care system annually. Within four years of aging out, 50% have no earnings and those who do, make an average annual income of \$7,500 a year. These social security benefits are crucial for creating a nest egg, buying a car, supporting their children, starting a business, paying for college or career education, and securing safe and stable housing. We know that if we are successful in bringing these young adults out of poverty that they are more likely to succeed in life and avoid repeating a cycle of abuse and neglect. This bill does just that for those who are entitled to their social security benefits.



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To demonstrate how exactly this bill would help youth aging out of foster care, I will share a story with you about my experience as a foster parent to a now young woman.

Again, FAPAC supports this bill, and we remain a steadfast partner with CFSA in supporting and advocating for children and families in care.

Donna Flenory

Board President, FAPAC