



# Please Vote YES on HB18-1319

## Services for a Successful Adulthood Former Foster Youth

**Sponsors: Rep. Singer & Young, Sen. Gardner**

**Problem:**

Each year more than 300 youth ages eighteen to twenty-one exit Colorado’s Foster Care System without a permanent home or a stable support network. Due to the long-term consequences of abuse and neglect, these youth are more likely to experience difficulty transitioning to independent adulthood and often face challenges securing employment, higher education goals, medical care and mental health treatment, and establishing healthy social connections.

**Solution:**

HB 1319 provides both a short-term and a long-term approach to helping Colorado’s Former Foster Youth.

*Short-term.* HB 1319 allows counties that have available child welfare funds to help former foster youth with services and supports such as rental assistance, tuition assistance, ensuring eligible youth are enrolled in Medicaid and much more.

*Long-term.* HB 1319 tasks the Former Foster Care Youth Steering Committee to develop an implementation plan that would allow these youth to continue to receive services and/or return to placement. The task force will have roughly 1.5 years to do its work and identify the steps needed to implement and operationalize the steering committee’s plan.

Ultimately, the end goal is to ensure that youth who exit the child welfare system have the option to access continued supports until they are at least 21 years of age regardless of where they live in the state.

# Please Support HB18-1319

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