foster advocates

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Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Foster Advocates supports SF3970/HF4217 as amended.

These changes deliver clear advancements for Fosters by strengthening Medical Assistance access to age 26, including for those enrolled in Medicaid in other states, and improving extended foster care planning, notice, and reentry pathways up to age 21.

We applaud mandatory independent living plans starting at age 14, required written notices six months before 18, court review rights before termination, and eligibility criteria that recognize real transition needs like education, employment, or medical conditions.

These provisions build stability and equity into the system without creating confusion.

Foster Advocates calls on the Committee to advance this bill. Young people deserve these practical tools to reach adulthood safely.

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