



Strengthen Extended Foster Care HB 2330/SB (Rep. Fey, Sen. Carlyle)

Extended Foster Care (EFC) provides an opportunity for state dependent youth in foster care at age 18 to continue to receive housing and support until age 21. The program has been shown to **boost educational attainment and reduce involvement with the justice system**. Washington state has been a national leader on EFC for over ten years, with a 2010 study showing a return of \$1.35 for every dollar spent on the program.

Current Limitations:

- Excludes youth who are in a trial return home, youth in an in-home dependency, or who are in a Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) facility on their 18th birthday.
- Limits reenrollment to one time regardless of need.
- Youth must enroll by age 19.



2018 Ask: Strengthen Extended Foster Care by allowing youth between 18 and 21 to unenroll and re-enroll as needed, and to expand EFC to youth in JRA and other non-foster care placements on their 18th birthday.

Youth Perspective

“When I turned 18, I did not meet the criteria for Extended Foster Care so I became homeless. I was homeless for about 6 months which greatly hindered my chances of getting a job or enrolling into college and I felt hopeless and alone. I didn’t think I had a chance to meet the criteria before turning 19. A year is a very short amount of time in the grand scheme of things and extending the entrance deadline would mean a lot to foster youth who want the help and support as I did.” —Bri, age 19

Join us in Olympia for Youth Advocacy Day
on January 26, 2018!

