

# Children's Rights

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**<https://www.childrensrights.org/childrens-rights-urges-congress-to-help-older-foster-youth/>**

## Public Facing Advocacy Writing

**\*Update, May 12, 2020**

We are proud to have joined over 110 organizations and 650 foster youth, foster parents, and advocates calling for Congress to provide crucial supports to older youth facing the stress and disruptions resulting from COVID-19.

[We urge Congress to consider the series of legislative recommendations provided below for inclusion in the next COVID-19 relief bill.](#)

**At the state level, there is more we can do!** A few states [Connecticut, Illinois, California, Rhode Island, Michigan, Ohio,](#) and [South Carolina](#) have already put policies in place to stop youth from aging out during the crisis. **Governors who have not yet acted must follow their lead, and do it now.**

**We need the power of your voice to ensure every governor hears the message!** Join us in telling governors older youth must not age out.

Today, Childrens Rights joined national advocates in urging Congress to take action to help older foster youth in and aging out of foster care. Many of these young people have been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis, and are at risk of becoming homeless and losing services and supports at a time that they need them the most. In this letter, advocates ask Congress to include in its next COVID-19 relief bill provisions that would provide support for these young people so they can make it through this crisis, stay healthy and thrive.

We ask that the following reforms are included:

We are aware that many young people are suffering from financial hardship at this time. However, unlike their peers, many foster youth have no family or support network to turn to for help navigating these challenges. We ask that you not forget them as you move forward in supporting our nations recovery from COVID.

Annie Blackledge, **The Mockingbird Society**

Celeste Bodner, **FosterClub**

Sixto Cancel, **Think of Us**

Alexandra Citrin, **Center for the Study of Social Policy**

Serita Cox, **iFoster**

April Curtis, **Foster Care Alumni of America**

Lisa Dickson & Doris Edelmann, **ACTION Ohio**

Christen Glickman, **Youth Villages**

Jessica Haspel, **Children Now**

Amy Harfield & Melanie Delgado, **Childrens Advocacy Institute**

Sherry Lachman, **Foster America**

Amy Lemley & Anna Johnson, **John Burton Advocates for Youth**

Laurie Lippold, **Partners for Our Children**

Jenny Pokempner, **Juvenile Law Center**

Jennifer Rodriguez, **Youth Law Center**

Sandy Santana, **Childrens Rights**

John Sciamanna & Shaquita Ogletree, **Child Welfare League of America**

Stefanie Sprow & Steven Olender, **Childrens Defense Fund**

Leecia Welch, **National Center for Youth Law**

Ruth White, **National Center for Housing and Child Welfare**

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, **GRACE**

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