

Sample Script (phone, but can be adapted for email): “Fostering Futures” —transition services up to age 21 for youth aging out of foster care and older youth adopted from foster care.

To determine who is your legislator, visit <http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/> and enter your address. You will be contacting your state Senator and Delegate.

[If email, subject line: Support “Fostering Futures” for youth aging out of foster care!]

Hello, my name is [_____] and I am a constituent of [Senator/Delegate _____]. I’m calling to express my support for the “Fostering Futures” program, which is a budget item under consideration by the General Assembly this session that would improve transition services for young people who age out of the foster care system. These youth are literally Virginia’s children, and too many of them are left on their own at 18. Without some additional supports, we know from national research they are facing terrible high risks of homelessness, unemployment, school dropout, and poor health and mental health.

Virginia has the highest rate of youth aging out of foster care in the nation. We must offer these young people a legitimate chance at a safe and successful path to adulthood, and for a very small investment by the state—less than \$2 million over the next two years—we will be able to access significant federal funding to ensure age 18 is a bridge to their futures, and not a door that shuts behind them. I ask [Senator/Delegate _____] to support “Fostering Futures” and vote to include this program in the final budget.

Thank you very much!