

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services  
For HB 637

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 1:25 PM

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Hearing Date: March 14, 2023 8:00 AM

Pat Baker  
Liberty Chambers CASA  
Cleveland, TX

Please support this bill. Most foster care children are behind in school and are still in care after their 18th birthday and working toward a high school diploma or other equivalent. This would give the foster care children a better chance of completing one college credit course and become eligible for free college tuition which they so deserve.

Bill Baker, Mr  
Liberty and Chambers CASA  
Cleveland, TX

Regarding HB 637, please vote this bill out of committee, any and all steps that enable and empower children in the system, must be employed, please make this happen, God Bless You!

Bryce Bedford  
Law Office of Bryce W. Bedford  
Buffalo Gap, TX

Extending PCA beyond 18yo is very important for the long-term success and permanency of foster youth. These youth need the support of kinship placements as they transition from child to adulthood. Allowing kinship placements to receive subsidies until the youth turns 21 stabilizes such placements and promotes the goals of permanency for foster youth. Former foster youth struggle with the transition to adulthood much more than their non-foster care peers, and the extending PCA will help close that gap. Currently, the only other option once a youth turns 18 is extended foster care, but this option requires the youth to remain in the PMC of the department prior to aging out. As a result, it does not achieve the goal of permanency. Additionally, the placement options in extended foster care are very limited and tend to be group homes.