



KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION
**KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY
Legislative Bill**

Red | Bill # HB 33

**Referred to Committee:
House 2**

Authors: Audrey Moore, Jonathan Polstan, Philip Golden,

School: Somerset Christian School

City: Somerset

Action on the Bill

House

Senate

___ Passed

___ Passed

___ Defeated

___ Defeated

1 An act to grant foster parents specific legal privileges in court appearances with children that they have
2 fostered for at least nine months.

3
4 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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6 Section 1: Statistics show that every year, nearly 30,000 children leave foster care at age 18 without the
7 safety net of a family. 94% of these children have no college degree, 64% are unemployed, 37% experience
8 homelessness, 30% receive public assistance, and 37% were incarcerated within 12-18 months. This bill will
9 allow foster children to receive the stable homes they need for a bright future.

10
11 Section 2: Eighteen states have a foster Parent Bill of Rights; Kentucky is included in this number. As of
12 now, however, foster parents cannot be represented in a court case concerning the child's legal custody.
13 This bill would allow foster parents to, after at least nine months of uninterrupted care, hire a representative
14 in their favor or speak on their own behalf concerning the child's legal custody.

15
16 Section 3: The fostering system in America is better than any child care system anywhere on earth. Even so,
17 it can get better. This bill will not cost the state of Kentucky any money, because foster parents will be
18 responsible for their own representation, and, if unable to afford a representative, may speak on their own
19 behalf.

20
21 Section 4: Foster parents who foster a child for even a short period of time become very emotionally
22 attached and want the absolute best for their foster child. This bill gives these foster parents a voice. The
23 foster care system will still aim to put the child with his original parents, or a family member, but this bill
24 decreases the likelihood of the child falling back into the abuse and neglect that got him into foster care in
25 the first place. This bill can end this vicious cycle.

26
27 Section 5: This bill will go into effect 6 months after passage.

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29 Section 6: This bill will be enforced by the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children.