



The **O**vercoming **H**urdles In **O**hio  
**Y**outh **A**dvisory **B**oard  
[www.fosteractionohio.org](http://www.fosteractionohio.org)

*We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth who have or will experience out of home care.*

Stevie Hayslip  
[REDACTED]

Dear Representative Doug Greene,

My name is Stevie Hayslip, and I am a current foster youth writing to urge your support for House Bill 448, the Fostering Siblings Connections Act. HB 448 was introduced by Representatives Sarah LaTourette and Janine Boyd and is currently pending in the House Community and Family Advancement Committee.

Federal law already requires that states make efforts to sustain these connections, but Ohio law must be strengthened to ensure that this happens. This bill broadens the definition of siblings in a way that *reflects what foster youth experience*. It provides foster youth with the legal tools necessary to *make sure siblings stay connected*. It requires courts and placement agencies to make efforts to *place siblings together or permit ongoing interaction*.

**I support this bill because I was placed into foster care six years ago, and so were my five siblings. I have not seen them since. I have asked for visitation many many times. By the time I was able to get visitation, they were already adopted – so I never got to see them at all.**

**This bill matters to me because not being able to see my siblings has affected me mentally and emotionally. I do not want other foster youth to experience that trauma and pain. It is not fair to separate siblings who want to see each other.**

Please support HB 448 to protect the rights of siblings under state care to continue these vital life-long relationships,

Sincerely,  
Stevie Hayslip  
Parliamentarian of Ohio Youth Advisory Board  
Greene County

*Cc: Representative Ginter, Chair Community and Family Advancement Committee*