



## **The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act: History of FSHO**

***The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act is youth-driven in every sense,*** because the only reason it exists is that a volunteer group of Ohio foster care youth and alumni have been fundraised locally, and traveled to D.C. annually, from 2013-now. Their goal was and is to address the long-standing gap between foster care and housing. Representative Michael Turner created FSHO as a direct result of meeting with this coalition.

***The concepts contained in the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act*** were written and refined over six years by foster care youth and alumni. They volunteered their time to meet with members of Congress, year after year, to create a plan to bridge the gap between foster care and housing stability, and to build a platform for self-sufficiency.

***The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act is thoughtful and intentional.*** It is based on the premise that we already know where teens in foster care are placed, and that we can connect them with housing supports by putting them on the list early. National support of this bill has been demonstrated by the 54,000+ individuals who have signed onto the [national petition for this bill](#) – which was also written by foster youth.

***Children and youth enter foster care due to factors outside of their control,*** such as experiencing neglect, abuse, or the death, addiction or imprisonment of a parent. Nationally, over 20,000 youth “age out” of the foster care system each year. 50% will experience couch-surfing or housing insecurity within a few years of emancipating from care. One in five will become homeless at some point during their lifetime.

***Stable housing is critical for foster youth to move forward and attain self-sufficiency*** in early adulthood. It is essential to connect young people between the ages of 18 and 26 with safe, stable and affordable housing in order for them to be able to achieve their employment and educational goals, while reducing negative outcomes, such as human trafficking. We have the numbers, and we have the data – what our nation needs is a sense of urgency to address this problem. The time has come to move beyond demonstration projects and take immediate federal action to improve foster youth housing outcomes nationwide.