



The Overcoming Hurdles In Ohio

Youth Advisory Board

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.

Step 1: Find out who your representative is at:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislators/find-my-legislators>

Step 2: You can use this template, and personalize it for your letter: *(please also email a copy of your letter to us, at info@fosteractionohio.org)*

Sample Template:

Dear Representative _____,

My name is _____ and I am a current/former foster youth who lives in your district. I am writing to urge your support for *House Bill 448, the Fostering Siblings Connections Act*, which was introduced by Representatives Sarah LaTourette and Janine Boyd.

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.
- Provides foster youth with the legal tools necessary to ensure they remain connected.
- Requires courts and placement agencies to make efforts to place siblings together or permit ongoing interaction.
- Provides courts with flexibility and oversight to ensure that children's' best interests are met when enforcing the law.

I support this bill because... *(in your own words)*

This bill matters to me because.... *(in your own words)*

Please support HB 448 to protect the rights of siblings in and from foster care to continue these vital life-long relationships,

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Address

Your Phone Number and/or Email