



Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus OH 43215

May 14, 2021

Dear Governor DeWine,

The **Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board** is a statewide organization of young people (aged 14-24) who have experienced foster care. The OHIO YAB exists to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth who have or will experience out of home care.

Alumni of Care Together Improving Outcomes Now Ohio is dedicated to improving outcomes for current and former foster care youth. Our membership is made up primarily of former foster youth, ages 18+ but includes some allies as well.

We share your vision for child protection to be the North Star and are deeply grateful for the time and resources that you have dedicated to support the needs of foster youth. This includes the moratorium on 'aging out' of foster care and Bridges that you instituted in response to the pandemic. Thank you also for your tireless efforts in your prior role as Attorney General when you included the voices of current and former foster youth in each of your Child Safety Summits, and as part of your Two Days in May conference.

We are writing to request a virtual meeting with you to share details regarding our vision for a Youth Ombudsman Office in the state of Ohio, which includes that this office be:

1. Youth specific
2. Able to operate independently of ODJFS
3. Designed with input from current and former foster youth

Thank you so much for your care and concern for our population. We can only imagine the many issues that you are juggling right now in your current role. But if you could please take the time to virtually meet with us regarding this Office, it would be truly appreciated. We can be reached by emailing YAB@fosteractionohio.org

Sending best wishes and hoping that you and your family are well,

Roman Sandhu
OHIO YAB President

Jonathan Thomas
OHIO YAB NW Ambassador