

Jamie Plume

From: Ken Fandetti <kkaykk100@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 5:38 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: S-2841 It should be titled stop ripping off children in foster care

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Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee, I am writing in support of Senate bill S-2841 a bill that would require a child in DCYF care to have Federal dollars they are entitled to be set aside for them and not made part of the general fund.

I was a social worker at the Children's Center back in the late 60's. A 15 year old girl was admitted because her father (a social security) recipient passed suddenly, and she had no living relatives to take her in. I learned she was eligible for social security survivor benefits (as her mother had abandoned her a long time ago). I thought we could open a bank account for her so she would have savings when she turned 18. As I went about finding out how to apply for those benefits for her I was told by the business manager that those funds had to be assigned to the state to offset the cost of her care. I remember this so clearly because it was around Christmas time and I likened the business manager to Scrooge. How unfair!!! This kid just lost her only caretaker and benefits that she was entitled to were being taken by the state.

Well it is now almost 60 years later and this committee can really make a difference and approve this bill which will help provide for these children as they age out of DCYF care.

Although I retired from DCYF in 1997, I have remained an advocate for children by serving as a member of the Office of the Child Advocate Advisory Committee and having served on a number of their Child Fatality Review Committees.

I strongly urge the members of the Senate Finance Committee to do the right thing and pass this legislation.

Thank you in advance.

Kenneth Fandetti