

LB 216 – THE YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTARY SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO 21 ACT

This January, a bill was introduced by Senator Amanda McGill that would provide extra services and support for **young people who “age out” of foster care.**

SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:

Services for youth who aged out of foster care would include:

- ★ Year-round housing support
- ★ Youth-directed case management services
- ★ Medicaid coverage

Services for youth who were adopted or who entered a guardianship at age 16 or older would include:

- ★ Continued adoption/guardianship subsidies (payments)

WHO COULD PARTICIPATE:

To participate in this program, young adults would need to:

- ★ Be doing at least one of the following:
 - ✓ Completing high school or an equivalent program (e.g. GED)
 - ✓ Enrolled at least part-time in college, community college, or a vocational education program
 - ✓ Employed at least 80 hours per month (about 20 hours a week)
 - ✓ Participating in a program or activity to find a job (e.g. a job training program or applying for jobs at a job training center)
 - ✓ Unable to do any of those things because of a medical condition
- ★ Sign up for the program
- ★ Meet monthly with a program support worker
- ★ Attend informal permanency and case reviews
- ★ Participate in other program requirements



To learn more about LB 216,
read Nebraska Appleseed's blog post at:
neappleseed.com/blog/11987
see our fact sheet on LB 216 at:
neapples/216factsheet
or contact Amy West at:
awest@neappleseed.org
or 402-438-8853

We need your help to turn this bill into a law!

Fill out a postcard to tell your senator why you support LB 216.

Here are a few ideas of things you could write about:

YOUR EXPERIENCES

Senators love to hear what people who live in their districts think of bills! You could tell your senator:

- ★ How you think this bill would help you.
 - ✓ e.g. having assistance with housing, having someone there to help you apply for jobs or college, having Medicaid
- ★ How you think this bill would help someone you know who is/was in foster care.
- ★ How you think this bill would help youth in foster care in general.

WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THE BILL

Tell your senator what you like about it! Here are a few things you could mention:

- ★ Young people would get monthly stipends (or payments) to help pay for housing.
- ★ The program is voluntary and flexible.
 - ✓ Youth get to decide if they want to sign up or not, and they can leave the program at any time.
 - ✓ If young adults decided to leave the program, they could still come back in later. If they decided not to sign up right when they aged out of foster care, they would still be able to sign up later.
- ★ Young people get to decide what they need help with.
 - ✓ Every young person in the program would get a program support worker to help them apply for jobs, fill out college applications, get a driver's license or state ID, re-connect with siblings or other family members, apply for public benefits (e.g. food stamps, social security, or other forms of cash assistance), or anything else they may need help with.
- ★ Adults who adopted or guardianshiped a youth who was 16 or older would get extended subsidies (or payments).
 - ✓ Subsidies are the monthly payments adoptive parents or guardians get from the state to help care for kids. Extending this subsidy could help those adults continue supporting or caring for youth after they turn 19.

SOME OF THE BENEFITS

Many other states have created programs like LB 216, and those programs have proven to really make a difference for young people! Here are a few facts you could share with your senator:

- ★ Research shows that these types of programs:
 - ✓ Increase lifetime earnings (the amount of money someone earns in their lifetime)
 - ✓ Help youth get stable jobs
 - ✓ Prevent homelessness
 - ✓ Help youth get college degrees
 - ✓ Keep young people out of jail