



STATE ADVOCACY TIMELINE

2006 - CURRENT

2009

Ready to Launch

Testimonials to seek to restore the TANF-Independent Living allocation. Established a Ready to Launch Coalition. Visited 24 Ohio legislators' offices on April 28, 2009.

2011

Neighborhood Notification Act

Testimonials to oppose Sub. HB 86 entitled Foster Youth Community Notification Provision in June 2011. This effort was successful.

2015

Ohio Fostering Connections

Statehouse Day on March 26, 2015, during which 26 foster care youth and alumni delegates visited legislators' offices to seek to extend foster care supports to age 21.

2016

HB 50 Signing

Ohio foster care youth and alumni were invited to the HB 50 bill signing on June 13, 2016, and to share their insights regarding future implementation, including writing curriculum.



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2020

Foster Care Forums

In his former role as Attorney General, DeWine held a series of Child Safety Summits; in his role as Governor, he hosted a series of forums. Ohio foster care youth and alumni shared testimonials during both.

2021

Youth Ombudsman Advocacy

Testimonials from foster care youth and alumni advocating for a Youth Ombudsman were published in Gongwer, the Columbus Dispatch and the Imprint.

2022

House Bill 4

Amended House Bill 4 was signed into law on February 28, 2022. As per youth and alumni requests, the Youth Ombudsman is a separate entity from the Family one, and youth voice is included in ongoing development.

2025

Ongoing Efforts

On Thursday, May 15, 2025, 25 foster care youth and alumni participated in Statehouse Advocacy Day. Also in 2025, 15 Ohio foster care alumni provided testimonials regarding the need for post-secondary supports.