

**HB 6666 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO IDENTITY DOCUMENTS BY
HOMELESS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**

Public Health Committee

March 29, 2021

My name is Michael Eastman and I am 20 years old. I am part of Youth S.P.E.A.K.S. (Supporting Policies and Enriching Any Kind of Services) at the Center for Children's Advocacy. We advocate on issues affecting youth and young adults who are homeless. I am homeless as we speak. Many others like me won't stay in shelters. This problem is bigger now due to the COVID-19. We are staying anywhere friends or others let us stay. It is sometimes not a safe situation. We don't have money for basic needs so even less for getting a copy of our birth certificate and/or State ID. These documents are expensive now and required for everything. You actually need the Birth Certificate to get a State ID.

Sections 70-72 of this bill will help us to get a certified copy of our birth certificate at no cost. This will help us to get an ID, also at no cost, and to get access to benefits, jobs, and housing opportunities.