

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

Public Health Committee

March 29, 2021

My name is Vincent Hatten and I am 25 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. I became homeless for the first time at the age of 19. I signed out of DCF (Department of Children and Families) on my 18th birthday. I thought I was able to make it without the system's support but things became rough and I succumbed to homelessness and was even in the juvenile justice system. It was very hard to find a job and keep it.

I am writing now because I know many youth and young adults like me would benefit from passing sections 70-72 HB 6666.

Homeless youth and young adults don't have money to pay for a birth certificate and/or a State ID. Without them, we can't get a job that takes us out of our homeless situation. We are asking you to approve this fee waiver for a certified copy of the birth certificate and State ID. That will be very helpful for all of us to access jobs and educational opportunities as well as other benefits like food stamps, etc.