



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

REPRESENTATIVE
DANIELLE W. GREGOIRE
REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF
THE 4TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

Chair
Joint Committee on State Administration
and Regulatory Oversight

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 23
TEL: (617) 722-2140
Danielle.Gregoire@MAhouse.gov

June 17, 2019

The Honorable Kay Khan, Chair
Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
State House, Room 146
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Khan:

I write to you in strong support of **House Bill 124, *An Act Ensuring Continuous Healthcare Coverage for Youth Who Have Aged-Out of the Department of Children and Families***. I respectfully request your consideration of this legislation and ask that you release it favorably from committee in a timely manner.

The purpose of this legislation is to codify DCF's current practice of automatically enrolling 18-year-olds into Mass Health and would establish a provision that would allow former foster kids to be automatically re-enrolled in Mass Health each year. The federal government has already changed its laws to allow former foster youth to be eligible for Medicaid coverage regardless of their income until their 26th birthdays. Youth who have already left the care of DCF prior to the effective date of this provision of the Affordable Care Act are likely not aware of their access to this benefit.

While these youth represent a small population, they are a high-need and vulnerable population, more susceptible to poverty, incarceration, unemployment, depression and chronic illnesses. As the lead sponsor of this bill, I am hopeful that its passage will allow these individuals to lead healthy and successful lives.

Again, I strongly support **House Bill 124** and ask that you release it favorably from committee in a timely manner. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Danielle W. Gregoire
State Representative