Oppose Governor’s Rauner’s Proposed Cuts to Youth in Foster Care Ages 18 – 21

NEEDED ACTION STEPS

Governor Rauner’s proposed budget cuts include eliminating all services to youth in foster care ages 18 -21. These are critical ages in development, and a period when adolescents need our support in preparing for a full and productive adulthood. Imagine being 18 without any adult guidance or support. Ending essential supports for this population is morally unconscionable and fiscally irresponsible. A statement of the Coalition to Support the Future of Our Youth which explains in greater detail the reasons for opposing the cuts can be found at http://bit.ly/1DNegks.

What you can do RIGHT NOW to oppose the cuts:

- **Contact your State Representative and State Senator**, as well as the legislators from the district in which your organization is based, to voice your objections to the proposed budget cuts. You can email, call, or meet with your legislator in person. To find your state legislators: [http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx](http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx)

  Your efforts are a vital part of successfully challenging the Governor’s proposed elimination of services to youth over 18 in foster care. Legislators are most concerned about responding to their own constituents’ concerns. If you’re writing on behalf of your organization, it would be great if you could include a brief description about how these cuts will affect your organization and the clients you serve. Feel free to include the coalition statement.

- **Email Tim Nuding**, Director, Governor’s Office of Management and the Budget to voice your opposition to the proposed cuts. His email address: tim.nuding@illinois.gov.

- **Copy the email** you send to Tim Nuding and send it to the Governor at: [http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Pages/ContacttheGovernor.aspx](http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Pages/ContacttheGovernor.aspx)

- **Like and share** the post on the Civitas ChildLaw Center Facebook page opposing the budget cuts. [https://www.facebook.com/CivitasChildLaw?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/CivitasChildLaw?fref=ts)

- **Share the emails** you send as well as any responses to aweinbe@luc.edu. It’s extremely helpful to our advocacy to know your outreach and what you hear back.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Anita Weinberg, Director, ChildLaw Policy Institute, Loyola University Chicago at aweinbe@luc.edu or 312-915-6482. Thank you.