

Contact Your Congressman About DJay's Bill

Goals: Encourage your member of Congress to co-sponsor this bill. Raise public awareness about the bill.

Suggested Messaging

Customize the messages below by replacing the [highlighted text] with your own words. Delete the highlighting when you're done.

Feel free to copy this as is or make it your own!

[Find your member of Congress and their contact information here.](#) Please email info@nfyi.org if you need help.

Language For Current or Former Foster Youth

Dear Rep. [Name],

I'm an advocate for foster youth like my fellow former foster DJay, a nursing student who died from COVID-19 earlier this month. **I'm writing to ask you to cosponsor DJay's bill: The Dosha Joi Immediate Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act.** This bill would ensure that former foster youth like me have Medicaid until the age of 26. Dosha "DJay" Joi was a former foster youth who passed away on May 14 due to COVID-19 related complications. DJay spent 10 years in foster care and had health complications that he battled into adulthood. As a nursing student and advocate for children in the child welfare system, he fought to make sure they were protected and received the support they needed to thrive in care and as they transitioned into adulthood. Today, I'm asking you to continue the fight for him.

Children in foster care often face extraordinary health challenges. As COVID-19 has spread in so many of our communities, we are seeing the deadly effects of disparities in health care. As this pandemic continues, it's critical that we make sure everyone in this vulnerable population has the coverage and care they need.

The Affordable Care Act extended Medicaid coverage to age 26 for all foster youth who were in foster care on their 18th birthday and were already enrolled in Medicaid. However, if a young adult moves outside the state where they were in foster care, they often lose their health insurance unless their new state agrees to continue it.

In 2018, a provision included in the bipartisan SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act fixed this "glitch" -- but it won't go into effect until 2023. This will be too late for thousands of former foster youth who need health insurance while we are under a national health emergency because of COVID-19.

[If you want, personalize with your own individual experience.]

I am grateful for all you've done to help the residents of our district survive this pandemic. I urge you to continue that work by co-sponsoring/supporting the bill. To learn more about H.R.6959, you can contact Senator Bob Casey's office or Representative Karen Bass' office. This bill could save lives during a time when we're already losing too many.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Language for Supporters / Advocates

Dear Rep. [Name],

I'm writing today on behalf of [the National Foster Youth Institute or other organization name] to urge you to **support The Dosha Joi Immediate Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act**.

Dosha "DJay" Joi was a former foster youth who passed away on May 14 due to COVID-19 related complications. DJay spent 10 years in foster care and had health complications that he battled into adulthood. This bill would ensure that former foster youth like DJay have Medicaid until the age of 26.

[About your organization. e.g. The National Foster Youth Institute mobilizes former foster youth and lifts their voices in order to transform the nation's child welfare system and improve health disparities and all outcomes for foster youth.]

Children in foster care often face extraordinary health challenges. As COVID-19 has spread in so many of our communities, we are seeing the deadly effects of disparities in health care. As this pandemic continues, it's critical that we make sure everyone in this vulnerable population has the coverage and care they need.

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In 2018, a provision included in the bipartisan SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act fixed this "glitch" -- but it won't go into effect until 2023. This will be too late for thousands of former foster youth who need health insurance while we are under a national health emergency because of COVID-19.

DJay was a nursing student and advocate for children in the child welfare system. He fought to make sure they were protected and received the support they needed to thrive in care and as they transitioned into adulthood. Today, I'm asking you to continue the fight for him.

I am grateful for all you've done to help the residents of our district survive this pandemic. I urge you to continue that work by co-sponsoring/supporting this bill. To learn more about H.R.6959, you can contact Senator Bob Casey's office or Representative Karen Bass' office. This bill could save lives during a time when we're already losing too many.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]