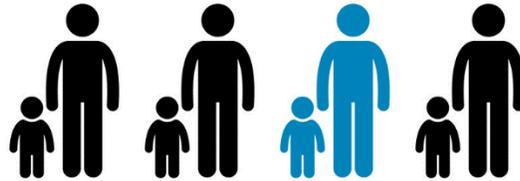




CT Foster Children Need Your Help!

In Connecticut, over 19,000 grandparents serve as foster parents to their grandchildren.¹ **Bill HB 5290** would provide the vital assistance needed to keep the family together and ensure children's survival.



At LEAST one in four foster children lives in a kinship placement -with a relative – at any given time². That number is growing.

This relative could be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, or adult sibling. Relatives who take on foster children provide more than care – they are a stable person and a familiar face during a traumatic time for the child. Historically, the amount of children in kinship care has been 25% of all foster children on average.³ However, the proportion of children in kinship care has skyrocketed in the past year, with as many as 54% of children residing in kinship care during the year of 2015.⁴

The overwhelming majority of kinship placement families need assistance – but can't always get it

Families who provide foster care for their relatives save the state money and effort in the foster parent recruitment process. Their caretaking efforts also provide value to the economy – a value of at least 6.5 BILLION dollars nationwide each year.⁵ However, they are not always financially equipped to take care of a child. Up to 85% of kinship caretakers may receive TFA (Temporary Family Assistance/Cash benefits), but are often unable to claim their foster child because they are not the child's legal guardian.⁶

Non-related foster parents receive a subsidy to provide childcare. Why should hardworking grandparents, aunts, and other relatives be left behind?

Call your State Representatives and tell them that HB 5290, An Act Increasing Financial Assistance for Grandparents and Other Non-Parent Relatives who are Raising Children, is important to you! HB 5290 will give hardworking relatives who take care of a child and receive TFA a benefit equal to 75% of what non-related foster parents receive each month. It is a first step forward, and will allow kinship placements to better provide for their children. Relatives work hard for these children. With assistance through HB 5290, we can keep Connecticut families together and keep children out of the state system.

- 1 AARP (2011). Grandfacts: State fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children. Retrieved from www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/state-data-repository/gf/2010/grandrally-connecticut-2010.pdf
- 2 State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families (2012). Report on Kinship Care. Retrieved from www.ctfosteradopt.com/fosteradopt/lib/fosteradopt/pdf/kinship_care_report.pdf
- 3 State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families (2012).
- 4 Josh Kovner (2015, October 4). Kinship Foster Care on the Rise. *The Hartford Courant*. Retrieved from <http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-grandmother-foster-parent-1003-20151004-story.html>
- 5 National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (2005). Research Brief: Kinship Caregivers in the Child Welfare System. Retrieved from www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/rb_15_2col.pdf
- 6 Garrity-Rokous, Beth & Pollack, Martha (1999). Second Time Around: Relative Caregivers Appointed Legal Guardians. Connecticut Voices For Children. Retrieved from www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/well99relative12.pdf