



March 17, 2026

The Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. Senate  
115 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Welch:

I am writing on behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families a priority in federal budget and policy decisions, to express our support for Expanded Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act (S. 2077).

Congress has repeatedly strengthened Medicaid coverage for former foster youth, but critical coverage gaps remain. The Expanded Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act would require state Medicaid programs to additionally cover former foster youths who exited foster care before the age of 18, whether because they were placed in a legal guardianship or were otherwise emancipated from foster care as a minor. It would also repeal the provision that requires former foster youths to have been enrolled in state Medicaid programs while in foster care in order to qualify for coverage until age 26.

By ensuring all children formerly in the foster care system—regardless of when they exited foster care before 18 or whether they received Medicaid coverage during their time in foster care—have health coverage until age 26, the Expanded Coverage for Former Foster Youth Act would close important coverage gaps and provide stability to the lives of former foster youths. Medicaid is already the primary coverage source for youth in the foster care system and ensuring that Medicaid covers all foster youth is paramount for the health of children across the United States.

Thank you for your dedication to improving health coverage for former foster youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Lesley".

Bruce Lesley  
President