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March 17, 2021

MPP Bob Bailey (Sarnia-Lambton)
805 Christina Street North
Suite #102
Point Edward, ON N7V 1A4

Commented [JK1]: Update to your info

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Commented [JK3]: Email to: bob.bailey@pc.ola.org; and info@childwelfarepac.com

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BILL 237, FOSTER PRIVACY FAIRNESS ACT, 2020

Dear Mr. Bailey:

Thank you for introducing this historic bill which restores basic privacy rights to people raised in the Ontario child protection system. Please consider this my letter of support.

This legislation seeks to correct a long-standing administrative issue that leaves those raised in foster care with less privacy rights than juvenile offenders. Deeply personal and intimate information about foster children is recorded in child welfare files. In Ontario, these files remain accessible to child protection sector employees for life.

This proposed Act amends Ontario's Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 by defining an appropriate access period to these sensitive files, protecting the identities of foster children in adult life, and allowing third party access to sealed files only through the courts.

Youth in care end up in the system through no fault of their own and are regrettably haunted by these often-inaccurate versions of their childhoods. I am aware of many instances where the files of former foster children have been inappropriately accessed in ways that have interfered with job and board governance opportunities, custody disputes in family court, and in child adoptions.

[OPTIONAL - insert your own story of why this is important to you here]

If anyone deserves a fresh start in adult life, it is kids raised in the foster care system. This bill is making history by treating foster kids like they matter, like they have human rights too.

I would be pleased to provide any additional support required as this bill progresses into a law. It is fundamental that the most vulnerable youth in our communities have the best possible chance to succeed after care.

Warmest regards,
Name / title
Organization

**PLEASE EMAIL TO: bob.bailey@pc.ola.org
info@childwelfarepac.com**