



TODAY: Join in the #PassFamilyFirst Virtual Rally!

TODAY at 1pm PT / 4pm ET, foster youth and family advocates will hold a rally at the Capitol to call on Congress to pass foster care reform while it still has the chance. **Join us VIRTUALLY!**

Background: The fate of tens of thousands of foster kids hangs in the balance as the 114th Congress enters its final days. The Family First Act was introduced earlier this year to realign our nation's foster care system. Family First was on the verge of passing last week, but it was stalled by last-minute opposition from big money congregate care groups.

Instructions: The virtual #FamilyFirst rally will be held for ONE HOUR starting at 1pm ET / 4pm ET. For the ENTIRE HOUR, we're asking youth, alumni, and advocates to do a virtual takeover of Congress members' Facebook pages and Twitter feeds. Here are the instructions:

1. Be sure you know your members of Congress:
 - Find your two Senators: <http://www.senate.gov>
 - Find your on Representative: <http://www.house.gov>
2. Post to their Facebook pages!
 - Consider sharing some of your personal story.
 - TIP: If their Facebook page does not accept posts, then place a comment to one of their other posts (doesn't matter if the topic is something different)
 - Use #FamilyFirst and #FosterClub (so we can like your comment!)
3. Post to their Twitter feeds
Find twitter handles here (see below for sample messaging):
<https://twitter.com/gov/lists/us-senate/members?lang=en>
<https://twitter.com/gov/lists/us-house/members?lang=en>
 - Use #PassFamilyFirst and @FosterClub (so we can retweet!)

Sample messaging (get creative!):

IDEA: Use your own story:

"I spent ten years in foster care and every foster youth on this thread ... There is truly is no substitute for family and your facilities are making profit off of this bill not passing. We must do what is in the best interest of ALL youth, not just your facility.
#PassFamilyFirst #FosterClub

IDEA: Promote an article about Family First:

Earlier this week, big money interest in congregate care were successful in getting the Family First Act (<http://huff.to/2gOlteB>) removed from the 21st Century Cures Act.

Sample Tweets through Twitter:

(You can [tweet at your members of Congress](#) too! See our sample tweets below)

YOUTH:

.[replace with your Senator's Twitter handle] my grandparents sacrificed everything to keep me out of foster care. Help others like them. #SaveFamilyFirst

.[replace with your Senator's Twitter handle] if you had helped my uncle, I never would have had to be in foster care. #SaveFamilyFirst

ADVOCATES:

.[replace with your Senator's Twitter handle] children age out of a system, they never age out of a family! #SaveFamilyFirst.

.[replace with your Senator's Twitter handle] children age out of a system, they never age out of a family, this {grandma/foster parent/advocate} says #SaveFamilyFirst.

.[replace with your Senator's Twitter handle] help families get the substance use treatment they need to keep children with family. #SaveFamilyFirst

BACKGROUND

The [Family First Prevention Services Act](#) is a groundbreaking bipartisan child welfare bill that provides supportive service to children and families to prevent the need for children to enter foster care. When children must enter the foster care system, it prioritizes families for children and demands quality in cases when they must enter trauma- informed treatment-oriented residential care.