

February 1, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Massachusetts Families for Kids is a program of Children Services. MFFK works with the Department of Social Services and its contracted agencies, as well as courts to increase and improve permanency options for children in the care of the state. One of the dimensions of MFFK is Education and Training, a means of providing parents and youth the opportunity to have a meaningful role in this process. This is done through conferences, panels, public awareness events that incorporate the writings, testimonies, and presence of out constituents – they are the most powerful agents of change and improvement.

The MFFK Speak Out Team is an organized group of teens and young adults who have assisted in and contributed to our public awareness campaign. Members have shared their life experiences and views in order to inform public policy, case practice and system reform relative to foster care and adoption in Massachusetts and nationally. Their participation has been invaluable.

On February 5, 2007, we would be honored if [REDACTED] can participate in “Youth Advocacy: A Commitment to Encourage Success for Adolescents in Foster Care,” a State House event aimed at increasing awareness and guiding system change on behalf of children and youth in foster care. The input of [REDACTED] and the other participants will serve to underscore the critical need of adolescents for permanent family connections, as well as to highlight areas for improvement.

We recommend that [REDACTED] be given consideration for an excused absence from school and credit towards civics, social sciences or English classes. The young people who participate add an important, and often overlooked, aspect to such events. Please join us in honoring their contribution.

Please call me at 617-445-6655, extension 347, if you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Eliza Wagner
Speak Out Team Coordinator
Massachusetts Families for Kids