

DAILY REPORT

Commentary: Empower Georgia's Youth and Earn a Tax Credit by Supporting the Fostering Success Act

By Eric Tanenblatt and Henry Walker

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Young people aging out of Georgia's foster care system face a daunting transition into adulthood. Without the support of a family, many struggle to secure housing, education and employment.

According to recent data, there are over 11,000 children in Georgia's foster care system, and each year nearly 700 of them age out without ever being reunited with family or placed in permanent homes. The Georgia Fostering Success Act provides an opportunity for all of us to make a meaningful difference in their lives while also benefiting from a state tax credit.

The Fostering Success Act (FSA) allows taxpayers to contribute to a program designed to assist these vulnerable young adults. By providing critical resources—



(Courtesy photos)

Eric Tanenblatt (left), global chair of Dentons' Public Policy Group, and Henry Walker, partner and chair emeritus at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton.

such as housing assistance, educational opportunities, and career training—FSA help foster youth build successful, independent futures.

These contributions are essential, as statistics show that within two years of aging out of foster care, 50% of youth

will experience homelessness, and less than 3% will earn a college degree. The ripple effects of these contributions extend far beyond individual lives, improving the social fabric of our communities and reducing issues like homelessness, unemployment, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

For members of Georgia's legal community, supporting this program aligns with the principles of justice and equity. As legal professionals, you understand the importance of opportunity, access, and support systems. Your contribution to the Fostering Success Act not only changes lives but also reinforces the idea that everyone deserves a fair chance to succeed.

There's also a financial incentive to contribute: The Fostering Success Act provides a state tax credit for donations, meaning you can reduce your tax liability while making a positive impact. This win-win opportunity allows you to support a critical cause while gaining a personal financial benefit. It's not

often that you can so directly contribute to societal change while also receiving a tax advantage.

No contribution is too small, and the collective efforts of Georgia's legal community can create a significant and lasting impact. By coming together, we can provide these young adults with the tools they need to navigate adulthood successfully. Your involvement could be the difference that helps them avoid homelessness, secure stable employment, or complete a college education.

To learn more about the Fostering Success Act and how you can make a contribution, visit www.fosteringsuccessact.org. By doing so, you not only help foster youth but also play a role in creating a brighter future for Georgia.

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