

HB 1091

Human Services Committee

Testimony of Margarethe Longsdorf, student, in support of

2/16/2021

Mrs. Chair and members of the committee:

I am here today to offer testimony in support of House Bill No. 1091 which will propose that any facility or foster family which applies to have shelter care certification and gets denied, cannot reapply for another two years. This change provides a higher bar for the level of care that the children will get. This will hopefully weed out any facility which may not have the best services or intentions. With this change any family or shelter care facility who gets their certification revoked cannot reapply for another 5 years. This change has the ability to make sure that the level of care is continued, and any family or facility that does not do this must make big changes in order to have children in the facility. This bill also does state that sometimes these two and five year wait periods can be waived by the department of human services, after the department looks into the safety and health of the family or facility who is reapplying. I think that this bill keeps the care and concern for the children in foster care as the highest priority which is really important. Although we need many foster families, we should not sacrifice the standard of care that our families and facilities give to the children in foster care.