

To;

I am responding as a public citizen in an effort to request the National advisory Committee discussion of policy change within State Child Welfare Agencies across the nation to eliminate the sex trafficking of youth in foster care. The policy shift has been adopted by six states with Oregon and New York city the last to adopt this shift in policy.

The policy change would require Child Welfare agencies to investigate the 'current' structure of biological families of teenage children in Foster care. Foster care has shown to provide up to 60percent of Child trafficking victims. Most of these children are 12 years and older. Many of these teenagers are runaways from the foster care system or foster parents. I believe, this simple shift, to renew bonds with biological familial units, will result in an immediate reduction of children found in trafficking cases across the nation.

Children above the age of 12, can speak on their own behalf on who they do feel safe with in family units. Children above 12 years old can and do seek out help in removing themselves from abusive situations in event a parent is abusive.

Our agencies and our foster care system has shown the wide range of outcomes for children in foster care. For those who struggle to find a safe place within the system, their outcomes are dismal. Homelessness, joblessness, drug use, prostitution and without family reunification, lacking any support when they age out of foster care. Many adoptive and foster children do not find a permanent place with their adoptive or foster parents. Often, the relationship ends when they age out of the system.

I ask you not to wait. i ask you to implement this simple policy to allow older children subjected to foster care to be able to request and voice their desire to return to the safe family member with support from state agencies to provide the reunification for families nationwide while reducing the number of runaways and sex trafficked foster kids.