

CS/HB 599 / SB 7018: Relating to Child Welfare

All children entering the foster care system deserve the placement which will help them the most.

What is the purpose of CS/HB 599 / SB 7018?

- ▶ This bill revises the state's approach to out-of-home placement services for children living in foster care. It requires a standardized assessment to determine the service, support need, and placement for each child entering the foster care system.
- ▶ The Department of Children and Families is required to develop a continuum of care that provides appropriate services based on the level of care for both foster home and group home placement.
- ▶ Community based care lead agencies are required to have a full array of intervention services to help keep children from coming into foster care.

Why is CS/HB 599 / SB 7018 necessary?

- ▶ As of June 1, 2015, there were 21,916 children in out-of-home care, with approximately 59% in relative and non-relative care, 33% in family foster homes, and 8% in residential group homes.
- ▶ For at least 15 years, Florida has not had enough family foster homes or an adequate array of homes necessary to meet the variety of needs of children in out-of-home placement.

How would CS/HB 599 / SB 7018 work?

- ▶ If passed, this bill would allow for appropriate placement for children to meet their out-of-home needs, thereby reducing placement instability and improving outcomes for children.
- ▶ It would provide additional intervention services to prevent children from entering the foster care system, and establish a continuum of care for children in the child welfare system.

**Support Florida's children by voting "YES"
on CS/HB 599 / SB 7018!**