February 5, 2018

To: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
Representative Jeff Reardon, Chair
hhwd exhibit email

Re: HB 4014 – Removes requirement that foster child complete volunteer service hours to qualify for tuition waiver – Support

In order to prevent or reduce poverty, the League supports policies and programs designed to: increase job opportunities; and provide opportunities and/or incentives for basic or remedial education and job training.

The League supports HB 4014 removing requirements that current foster child or former foster child complete volunteer service hours during previous academic year to qualify for tuition waiver. This bill would address an unintended consequence that sometimes stands in the way of current or former foster-care-youth qualifying for college tuition waivers. As we understand it, some community colleges are unable or unprepared to track volunteer service hours, thus preventing some foster youth from accessing tuition waivers.

Foster children typically have already experienced many adverse childhood experiences that frequently result in increased poverty and lack of opportunity to gain job skills in technical, community college or higher education programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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