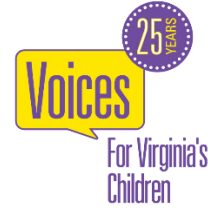




**VPLC**

Virginia Poverty  
Law Center



## Higher Ed Housing for Former Foster Youth HB 1403 (Tata)

**The Problem:** In Virginia, between 400-500 youth age out of foster care every year, meaning they are in temporary foster placements at the time they turn 18. This means they become adults without a permanent family to guide them and provide supports during their transition to adulthood and their time in higher education.

While nationwide, only 3% of youth who age out of foster care obtain a 4-year degree, those youth who do attend higher education programs do not have permanent families to rely on during school breaks. This means those youth do not have housing options – they may not have a home to return to during the holidays or any other alternatives for housing during those holidays.

**The Solution:** Allowing youth to remain in their school housing during those breaks. This not only prevents them from becoming temporarily homeless but prevents them from becoming temporarily homeless during some of the most sensitive times of the year for youth who do not have families. In addition to reducing homelessness of Virginia's most vulnerable youth, this may provide opportunities for Virginia to increase the percentage of youth who obtain 4-year degrees.

**Contact:** Cassie Baudean: [cassie@chsva.org](mailto:cassie@chsva.org) , 804-353-0191, ext. 334  
Allison Gilbreath: [allison@vakids.org](mailto:allison@vakids.org), 804-649-0184 ext. 109  
Valerie L'Herrou: [valerie@vplc.org](mailto:valerie@vplc.org), 804-351-5276