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GWEN S. MOORE  
FOURTH DISTRICT  
WISCONSIN

January 12, 2006

Mr. James Pekrul, Executive Director  
Foster Youth Independence Center of Milwaukee, Inc.  
604 E. Center St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212-2959

Dear Mr. Pekrul,

It is an honor to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the first anniversary of the Foster Youth Independence Center!

Your own experiences have acquainted you with the cruel reality often faced by youth who age out of foster care. As their placements terminate, they become ineligible for subsidized health insurance, and they suddenly become responsible for securing the basic needs that were previously provided through the child welfare system. While other young people may continue to rely on family to help provide housing and basic life needs, youth aging out of foster care often face adulthood without the financial and emotional support of family. For many youth, this daunting situation compounds the effects of the emotional and physical scars they already bear.

I cannot thank you enough for heeding the call to better serve these youth. I salute your efforts, and urge you to contact me if I can assist you in any way. Congratulations on reaching this important milestone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gwen Moore".

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

*Not paid for at taxpayers' expense*



FYI Center



of Milwaukee, Inc.