Sample Telephone Script for Contacting Your Legislator

[Ask to speak with the legislator and identify if you are a constituent of the legislator. Often, the legislator may not be available so you may leave this information with their secretary. If you are a constituent, the person answering the call may ask for your home address]

Good morning/afternoon, I am calling to express my support for House Bill H5807/Senate Bill S669 which is "An Act Relating to Delinquent and Dependent Children – The Young Adult Voluntary Extension of Care Act."

I am calling in support of this legislation to extend foster care services to age 21 because (pick two/three to highlight):

- Youth who exit foster care at age 18 without permanency face challenges in meeting their needs for health care, education, employment, housing and emotional supports.
- Young people transitioning out of foster care need ongoing support as they become successful young adults.
- More than one in five foster youth will become homeless after age 18.
- Since 2009, nearly half of the states in the US have extended foster care or other services and supports to this population including neighboring states Connecticut, and Massachusetts.
- The negative outcomes of youth exiting foster care at age 18 include increased welfare and Medicaid expenditures, higher costs of incarceration, lost wages due to unplanned pregnancies and incarceration, and other costs to our community.
- The Young Adult Voluntary Extension of Care Act will extend the age of foster care from 18 to 21 providing a range of appropriate programs and services to ensure successful transitions to independence and adulthood.

Please let Representative _____/Senator _____ about my support for H5807/S669 legislation and look forward to their support on this issue.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.