



[ShareThis](#) [Print this Story](#)

Foster children may lose funding



Reported by: [Angela Sachitano](#)

Email: asachitano@wptv.com

Last Update: 4/01 7:19 pm

[Foster children may lose funding](#)



Florida House of Representatives (AP)

LAKE WORTH, FL-- D'atra Franklin takes pride in her part-time job as a work study student at Palm Beach State College. She has big dreams. "I want to be a history teacher," Franklin said.

D'atra could have been just another statistic. Her mother died when she was only seven-years old and as a result she and her brother were left bouncing around from one home to the next.

"Right now my brother is in jail," Franklin said. "He went down the wrong path and I didn't. I realized I was better than that."

D'atra made her life "better than that" with the help of the state funded Transition to Independent Living Program. A monthly stipend of a little over 12 hundred dollars allows her to put a roof over her head and money for college.

House bill 5305 will slash the stipend young adults like D'atra will get in half to \$675 a month.

"Cutting it will be a detriment to their goals, school, work, and daily living," said advocate Jeff DeMario.

DeMario runs Vita Nova, a privately funded program helping foster kids in their young adulthood. He believes state leaders are going to dig an even deeper hole than the one they are in now.

"Youth out of foster care are subject to arrests, drugs, pregnancies, all that feeds this problem," DeMario said. "You cut the money and you'll see that."

DeMario says he serves 300 former foster children like D'atra utilizing the transition funding.

D'atra says she may have to pick up another job to make up for the cuts and her worse fear is she will have to drop school, and her dreams of being a teacher, all together.

"Kids need something to hold onto," she said. "If they had that money it could be something stable and secure for them."

The bill has already passed the Florida House, if it passes the Florida Senate the cuts could go into effect July 1st.

Young adults like D'atra say they've received little warning. Foster care advocates say that if you find this troubling then you can reach out to your Senators before they vote.

[ShareThis](#)

[Add a Comment](#) [Add Video Comment](#)

(2) Comments

Marketplace

5 Inexpensive Decorating Ideas



Embellish an empty abode with these easy, inexpensive projects and make your home feel more like home.

[More Details](#)

Moving An Aging Relative Into Your Home



Here are 10 important questions to consider when deciding whether to have an aging relative live with you.

[More Details](#)

Signs And Symptoms Of Bipolar Disorder



Symptoms of bipolar disorder may vary from person to person. Learn how to spot periods of mania and depression. [More Details](#)

10 Tips For A Happier Stomach



Better digestion may require some changes to your diet and schedule. Follow these suggestions to improve your digestive health. [More](#)

[Details](#)

Covering Your Community

▸ Central PBC
▸ Southern PBC

▸ Northern PBC
▸ The Glades

▸ Martin County
▸ Indian River County

▸ St. Lucie County
▸ Okeechobee County

Now on WPTV.com



[Brush fire keeps firefighters busy](#)

A brush fire began near Spanish River Boulevard and Military Trail Sunday morning.

[VIDEO](#)



[Shuttle launch seen, felt on Treasure Coast](#)

Several people on Indian River County bridges say they felt the unusual delayed rumblings of Discovery lifting off from Kennedy Space Center. Others also said they felt it from their homes. [VIDEO](#)



[Driving lesson turns into crash course](#)

A mother and daughter end up flipping a car during a driving lesson. [VIDEO](#)

- ◆ [Engine cover falls off JetBlue flight to FL](#)
- ◆ [Easter shooting anniversary](#) | [VIDEO](#)
- ◆ [Mom spends Easter with teen beating victim](#)
- ◆ [Close friend remembers pilot killed in crash](#) | [VIDEO](#)
- ◆ [Man arrested in roommate's death](#)

Advertisement



Trump Workshops Washington DC

Learn from the Master.
Workshops April 5th - April 8th.
Limited seating. Register now for
FREE! [Learn more](#)



Eat For Less In Washington DC

Just enter your email address
and get access to the best deals
in DC... [Learn more](#)

 [Add Your Link Here!](#)



Scripps TV Station Group
© 2010 The E.W. Scripps Co.
[Privacy Policy \(Updated\)](#) | [Terms of Use \(Updated\)](#) | [EEO](#)

[More news and information
from our local news partners](#)



This site is hosted and managed by [Inergize Digital](#).