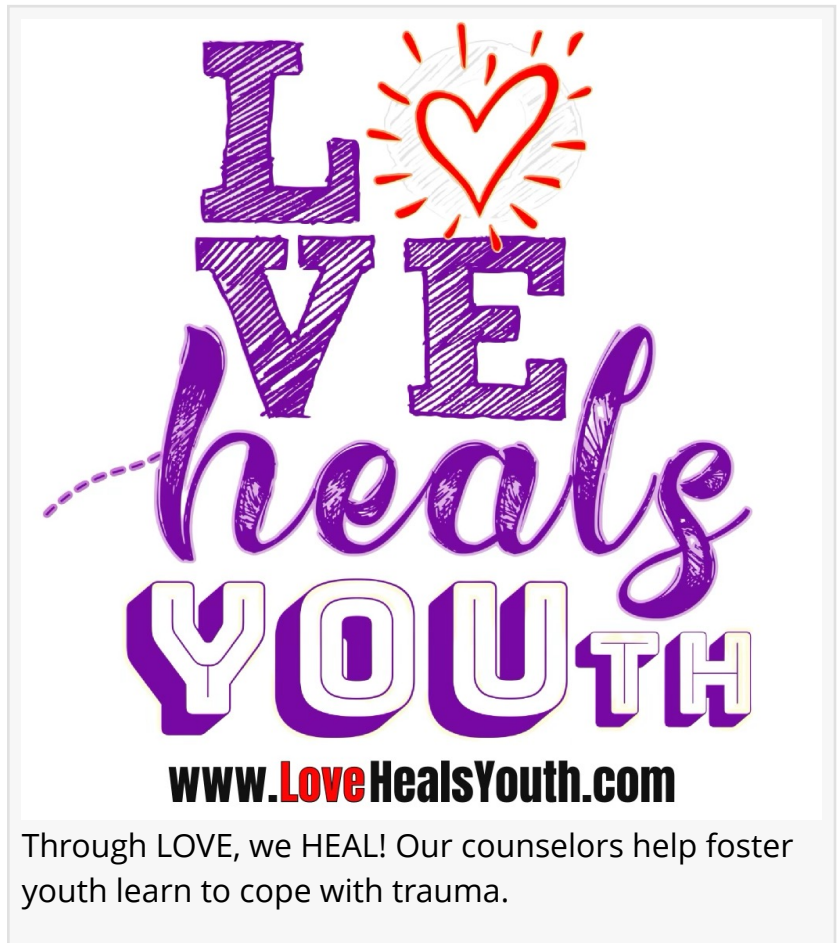


Love Heals Youth Champions Groundbreaking Foster Care Reform: The Sound of Hope Act

House Bill 194 Seeks to Transform Child Welfare Through Faith-Based Community Support

CONROE, TX, UNITED STATES, February 19, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Love Heals Youth](#), a volunteer-run organization dedicated to bringing hope and healing to foster youth through transformative counseling services is applauding the recently filed The Sound of Hope Act (House Bill 194). The Bill sponsored by Representative Steve Toth of District 15 introduces a faith-driven approach to foster care, empowering churches and faith-based institutions to serve as an alternative support system for children in need. Love Heals Youth is encouraging widespread support for this initiative.



To raise awareness of this landmark legislation, a special event coinciding with Child Welfare Legislative Day will be held in Austin, TX on February 25.

“At Love Heals Youth, we have witnessed firsthand the power of faith and community in changing the lives of foster children,” said Rebecca Smith, founder of Love Heals Youth. “House Bill 194 represents a groundbreaking step toward a more compassionate and sustainable foster care system—one that nurtures children with stability, love, and the long-term support they need to thrive. We invite everyone to join us in this mission to ensure no child walks this journey alone.”

Inspired by the heartwarming story of Possum Trot, as depicted in the Angel Studios film “Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot,” House Bill 194 aims to establish a compassionate, community-based model that fosters stability, love, and healing for children in the child welfare

system.

Love Heals Youth is sharing key highlights of the legislation to encourage support for it. Key benefits include:

- Faith-Based Foster Care: Churches and faith-based institutions can apply to provide comprehensive foster care services, operating alongside the state's existing system.
- Family-Focused Solutions: The initiative prioritizes placing children with families and works to reunite them with their biological relatives whenever possible. It also encourages long-term relationships between churches and families to ensure continued support even after court cases close.

- Holistic Care Model: Participating churches will have the opportunity to address all aspects of foster care, offering a consistent and nurturing environment within a single community hub.

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Rebecca Smith

- Breaking the Cycle: The legislation seeks to reduce foster care recidivism and interrupt generational cycles by providing children with enduring support systems.
- Cost-Effective Approach: By alleviating excessive administrative burdens, the Sound of Hope Act offers a fiscally responsible solution to the state's foster care challenges.

Rebecca Smith played a pivotal role in drafting the initial version of the bill, reinforcing the organization's commitment to transforming the foster care system.

Michelle Lehn is leading the coalition effort to mobilize churches statewide, ensuring a robust faith-based support network to implement the Sound of Hope model effectively.

"We believe that every child deserves a loving, stable, and supportive environment," Smith continued. "House Bill 194 presents an opportunity to empower faith-based communities to step up and make a lasting difference in the lives of vulnerable children. We are calling on individuals, churches, and organizations to stand with us in this movement."

Public support is crucial to the success of this groundbreaking legislation. Love Heals Youth



Rebecca Smith Founder and CEO of Love Heals Youth

urges community members to take action by visiting <http://www.soundofhopeact.com> and selecting "Join the Cause" to show their support for House Bill 194.

Together, we can transform foster care, providing children with the love, stability, and support they deserve. Let's stand united in giving every child a chance to thrive within a compassionate community.

About the Sound of Hope Act

The Sound of Hope Act seeks to establish a faith-based, community-driven parallel foster care system, modeled after the inspiring success of Possum Trot. With an emphasis on family restoration, long-term relationship-building, and holistic care, this legislation aims to create a more compassionate and effective child welfare system.

About Love Heals Youth

Love Heals Youth is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization dedicated to providing hope, healing, and transformative counseling services to children in the foster care system. Through trauma-informed support, mentorship, and faith-based community engagement, Love Heals Youth empowers vulnerable youth to overcome adversity and build brighter futures. Committed to reshaping the foster care landscape, the organization actively advocates for policies that prioritize family restoration and long-term stability for children in need. To learn more, visit <http://www.lovehealsyouth.com>.

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For more information, or to schedule an interview with Rebecca Smith, please contact Dan Rene at 202-329-8357 or dan@danrene.com

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HB 194 SOUND OF HOPE ACT

Program

9:00 TO 10:00AM Meet up at **Capitol Historic Supreme Court 3N.3** grab a t-shirt (while supplies last), form groups, grab materials to give to legislators

10:00 to 10:30am Instructions for meeting with legislators

We have 3N.3 reserved all day

10:30 to 4:00pm Visit legislators & discuss the bill to garner support; Grab lunch; **Stop by 3N.3 before you depart to debrief**

5:30pm Join Rep. Toth for Food and Fellowship E1.404

6:00 to 7:30pm Meet for **Pursuit Night Worship Service in the Auditorium** led by Grace Church The Woodlands & hear "Love Heals" by Payton Riley

Where to Eat

INSIDE THE CAPITAL
Captial Grill - Extension - E1.002

SHORT WALK OUTSIDE
Texas Chili Parlor
Phoebe's Diner
Clay Pit
Quiznos
Quattro
15th Street Cafe
Chipotle
Roaring Fork
Scholz Garden

FAR WALK/SHORT RIDE
Caroline Perry's
Velvet Taco
Cava
Chic-Fil-A
Raising Cane's
P Terry's
Jimmy John's

February 25, 2025

HB 194 Sound of Hope Act - February 25, 2025 Program/Schedule

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