



State of Tennessee

David H. Lillard, Jr., State Treasurer

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Singer Jimmy Wayne Honored at Grand Ole Opry for Advocacy of Enhanced Foster Services

County singer Jimmy Wayne was honored by Tennessee State Senator Doug Overbey, Representative Mark White and state Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr., this week for his work in advocating for a new law that will extend foster care services to young adults.

Prior to the law's adoption, foster care services for those who reached 18 in Tennessee were set to expire. Mr. Wayne, who spent years in North Carolina's foster care system, recognized the difficulty young adults face in completing their education, launching careers and becoming independent. So he convinced state legislators to adopt a bill allowing adults between ages 18 and 21 to continue receiving foster care services if they wish.

The bill was adopted with unanimous approval in both houses of the General Assembly.

Sen. Overbey, Rep. White and Treasurer Lillard presented Mr. Wayne with a congratulatory resolution at the Grand Ole Opry this week.

"Jimmy Wayne cares about this issue because he personally knows the positive impact the Youth Empowerment Act will have on foster children as they age out of the state's care," said Rep. White. "He is truly deserving of this recognition. Working with him was an inspiring experience, and will lead to a better life for thousands of Tennessee children."

Senator Overbey commented, "Jimmy understands the unique challenges foster children face upon turning 18. With his help, we were able to achieve overwhelming support in the legislature to extend foster care benefits for those between the ages of 18 and 21. It is inspiring to see Jimmy use his God-given gifts and talents to further such a worthy cause and make a positive difference in so many lives."

The Treasury Department first worked with Mr. Wayne in 2010. As a department Christmas project, Treasury employees raised more than \$2,100 for Project Meet Me Halfway. Project Meet Me Halfway is an initiative of Mr. Wayne's to bring awareness of the plight of children who are aging out of the foster system.

"Jimmy Wayne has been a tireless advocate on behalf of young people in need of foster care, so it is fitting that he is being honored with this resolution," Treasurer Lillard said. "This new law

will provide security to a critical group of young people as they are making the transition from childhood to adulthood. Every Tennessean is proud of Mr. Wayne's efforts."

Mr. Wayne asked for the support of the Treasury Department in passing legislation that would extend foster care in Tennessee to age 21. Treasurer Lillard and other Treasury Department staff worked with Mr. Wayne and the bill's sponsors, Sen. Overbey and Rep. White, to raise awareness of this legislation and the importance of its passage.

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Attached photo (L-R) Pete Fisher, Grand Ole Opry General manager, Rep. Mark White, Jimmy Wayne, Senator Doug Overbey, Treasurer David Lillard

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