



NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

March 27, 2020

Dear Shadow Day Delegates:

We're reaching out to let you know that we have cancelled NFYI's 2020 Congressional Shadow Day. Between an unprecedented public health threat, uncertainty around how long travel and gathering disruptions will last, and a shifting Congressional calendar, we've decided that the safest option is to cancel this year's event. Please know that this does not mean your involvement in Shadow Day and engaging lawmakers is over:

- Because you have been accepted into the 2020 Shadow Day program, **you will automatically be accepted into next year's program**, which will take place in May or June of 2021.
- Next year, **the 18-30 age restriction on our program will be waived for anyone who was accepted into the program this year**. That means that if you turn 31 before the 2021 Shadow Day, you will still be able to attend.
- If you have any questions or thoughts about remaining involved between now and next year's Shadow Day, we will be available for Sunday's previously scheduled webinar. As with previous webinars, this will be for Shadow Day participants only. Please check your email for the link. The other webinars that were listed in your acceptance packet have been canceled. They will be replaced in the future by a new series that will give you an opportunity to weigh in on how the coronavirus response is impacting you, what resources transition age youth need to weather this storm, and how you can take action.
- We are working to create new opportunities for engagement between now and next summer. Coronavirus' impact on our population cannot be underestimated and it will take a lot of advocacy and organizing to continue our work. Keep an eye out for upcoming webinars followed by in person events when possible.

While we know that you may be as disappointed as we are by this announcement, we're committing to you today that you have a place at Shadow Day, at NFYI, and in our movement to improve the lives of children in foster care and foster care alums.

You are an extraordinary group and we look forward to working with you in the coming months and gathering in person to do great things next year.

Sincerely,
Sally Fairman, Rebecca Louve and Zahra Martinez
National Foster Youth Institute