

—Slug:.....COMM-0861.opin.letter.000\_britt  
—Contributor..... Lindsey Britt  
—Contributor email..... lindseybritt@sbcglobal.net  
—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers  
—Format..... LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor  
—Dateline.....Brattleboro  
—Article Number:.....43459



**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

Thanks, >indsey. I condensed a little at the end. Also, note spelling of Nader. —All the best, Jeff



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 The state is still taking money from foster children

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2

####END SUBHED####

3 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

4 As Vermonters, we have a responsibility to take care of  
5 the state's youngest residents, especially those children who may  
6 be abused and neglected and, as a result, enter the foster care  
7 system.

8 Unfortunately, our state is instead stealing from those  
9 vulnerable residents rather than caring for them and securing for  
10 each child a bright future.

11 The reality is that Vermont is taking approximately \$1  
12 million each year from the pockets of children in foster care who  
13 are entitled to Social Security disability and/or survivor benefits.  
14 These children — unlike other children in foster care who do not  
15 receive these benefits — are being forced, often without their  
16 knowledge, to literally pay for their time in foster care. We have  
17 created a two-tier and manifestly unfair system.

18 Considering Vermont is legally required to provide  
19 adequate funding for children in foster care without regard to the  
20 availability of other funding, like Social Security payments, it is  
21 doubtful the state could make an argument that a child's Social  
22 Security benefits should be used to cover the cost of housing,  
23 food, and other aspects of basic care.

24 And yet, that is exactly what they are doing.

25 But we have a chance to change this! A bill to help  
26 resolve this problem, [H.657](#), has advanced to the Senate.

27 Get in touch with your state senator today, because this  
28 bill may be voted within the week, and tell them to stand up for  
29 our children by supporting the bill and to be prepared to follow  
30 up with Gov. Scott who is threatening to veto what is essentially  
31 legislation that protects youth from theft by the state.

32 You can find your legislator at  
33 [legislature.vermont.gov/people/](https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/). For most people reading this,  
34 your state senators are Wendy Harrison  
35 ([wharrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:wharrison@leg.state.vt.us)) and Nader Hashim  
36 ([nhashim@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:nhashim@leg.state.vt.us)).

37 To learn more about this issue, you can read my  
38 Viewpoint in *The Commons* [["The state is taking money from  
39 foster children,"](#) March 29, 2023].

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

40

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

41      #####BEGIN MAXISSUE#####  
0  
#####END MAXISSUE#####

LINKS:

42      #####BEGIN LINKS#####  
#####END LINKS#####

VIDEO:

43      #####BEGIN VIDEO#####  
#####END VIDEO#####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

44      #####BEGIN LOGLINE#####  
#####END LOGLINE#####