



MEMBER CENTER: [Create Account](#) | [Log In](#)

[SITE SEARCH](#)



[WLNS HOME](#)

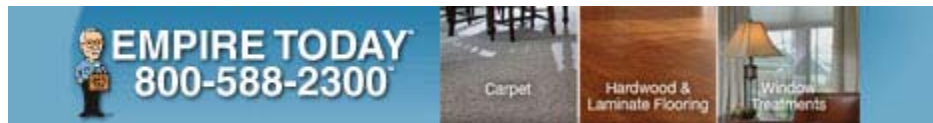
[6 NEWS](#)

[6 WEATHER](#)

[6 SPORTS](#)

[INSIDE 6](#)

[COMMUNITY](#)



[Email](#)

[Share](#)

[Print](#)

[Text Size](#)

Group Trying To Change Foster Care System

[Recommend](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Posted: Aug 06, 2010 4:51 PM EDT



Foster care youth from across Michigan gathered at MSU's college of law. They want reform to current foster care conditions. One man sees both the good and the bad in the current system. For Orlando Mitchell, growing up has been anything but easy.

Orlando Mitchell, speaking out about foster care: "Shouldn't no eleven year old be out pumping gas or bagging groceries so they can eat."

At fourteen and after years of abuse, he says his mother abandoned him and his thirteen siblings, landing them all in foster care. Now at twenty he credits foster care for saving his life, but says there are still parts of the system he'd like to see changed.

Orlando Mitchell: "The homes that I was in, it was like they were money hungry and it was like, they was on my head 'cus like, oh, the stipend wouldn't come in on time."

Today he's voicing those concerns at the kids speak forum. More than forty foster care students from

[Man With Medical Marijuana Certification Faces Charges](#)

[Twp. Manager Suggests More Cuts For 2011](#)

[Bernero Urges Snyder To Back Business Tax Breaks](#)

[Gov. Granholm Wants Kids In The Classroom Longer](#)

[Campgrounds Cashed In Over Holiday Weekend](#)

[Police Still Hazy On Enforcing Medical Marijuana Law](#)

[More Relying On Prescriptions](#)

[Plane Crashes Into Field](#)

[Boy Left Wandering Streets](#)

[National News](#)

[International News](#)

[Business News](#)

[Helpful Consumer Links](#)

[Entertainment News from AP](#)

around the state are addressing local policymakers and voicing their concerns, concerns Mitchell says too often fall on deaf ears.

Orlando Mitchell: "Just hearing it through their ears and letting it go out through the other."

Panelists had no choice but to listen. State Representative Joan Bauer says the message was clear.

Rep. Joan Bauer, (D) Lansing: "What I heard over and over is the need for case workers who care, who, who go beyond for the job description. The kids need to be heard."

After hearing more than thirty powerful testimonials, she says she's committed to seeing change.

Rep. Joan Bauer: "I heard some very strong messages that I'll take back to my job as a lawmaker."

A first step Mitchell says is a step in the right direction. The forum is just one part of a three day camp for foster kids geared at encouraging students to finish high school and attend college.

Comments

Terms of Use: We welcome your participation in our community. Please keep your comments civil and on point. You must be at least 13 years of age to post comments. By submitting a comment, you agree to these [Terms of Service](#)

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) or [register](#)

Echo 2 Items

[Admin](#)



nccpr

You'll never get the foster parents who are in it for the wrong reasons out of the system until Michigan stops taking so many children needlessly. Many are taken when family poverty is confused with "neglect." That so overloads workers that they don't have time to find children in real danger.

And while the majority of foster parents are in it for the right reasons, several studies show abuse in one quarter to one-third of foster homes – the record of group homes and institutions is even worse.

And all of it is worse in Ingham County which tears apart families at one of the highest rates in Michigan, nearly double the state average. Details are in our reports on Michigan child welfare, on our website here: <http://nccpr.info/nccpr->

[michigan-reports/](#)

Richard Wexler
Executive Director
National Coalition for Child Protection Reform
<http://www.nccpr.org>
Saturday, August 07, 2010, 7:54:08 AM



T.O.O.L.S. Training

Group Trying To Change Foster Care System: Entertainment
News from AP Foster care youth from across Michigan gathe...
Friday, August 06, 2010, 6:22:04 PM [via Twitter](#)

[See all comments](#)

Advertisement



Don't Buy Shampoo!

Until you read this article. Doctors say this common ingredient strips hair of color and softness... [Learn more](#)



Mom's \$5 Wrinkle Trick

Dermatologists don't want you knowing about this skin care secret! [Learn more](#)



\$29/Month Auto Insurance?

New company offers insurance for \$29/month. Click to see your rate. [Learn more](#)



Get Your Gov Debt Bailout

New state credit laws allow consumers to legally reduce debt up to 60% [Learn more](#)



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2010 WorldNow and WLNS. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and