



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**FOSTER YOUTH VOICES MONTH**

**2023**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 11,000 children and youth involved in the foster care system in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is committed to helping our children, youth, and young adults reach their full potential to live safe and healthy lives; and

**WHEREAS**, youth and young adults involved in the foster care system should have an active role in the decisions that impact their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, young adults with lived foster care experience should have a voice in advocating for policy and practice changes; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina child welfare agencies support the development of a network of independent, community-based youth councils to give young adults a voice and, with Strong Able Youth Speaking Out (SaySo), are uniting to recognize the impact of youth voices; and

**WHEREAS**, Foster Youth Voice Month is an opportunity for child welfare advocates to elevate youth voices to change their futures and those of generations to come;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October, 2023, as **"FOSTER YOUTH VOICES MONTH"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



**Roy Cooper**  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this ninth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.