



INTERIOR ALASKA CENTER

FOR NON-VIOLENT LIVING

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SUPPORT FOR HB 334

March 13, 2026

Representative Genevieve Mina
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Mina and Members of the Legislature,

On behalf of the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (IAC), I am writing to express our strong support for HB 334, which would allow unhoused Alaskans ages 18–25 to receive one free certified birth certificate and a free non-federally compliant state identification card, expand acceptable identity verification options, and allow alternative address options for document delivery.

IAC serves survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking throughout Interior Alaska. Each year, our advocates work alongside over 700 unduplicated individuals who are rebuilding their lives after violence. One of the most consistent and significant barriers our frontline staff encounter is access to basic identifying documents.

As one of our frontline staff members shared:

“Through my work in the human services field in Fairbanks, one of the most consistent barriers clients face is obtaining identifying documents. Many individuals are unable to secure stable housing because they lack essential documents, such as a state ID or birth certificate, often both. The cost of obtaining these documents is frequently the primary barrier.”

In Alaska, obtaining a birth certificate through the Alaska Vital Statistics Office can cost between \$50 and \$117, depending on processing time. For individuals already experiencing homelessness or extreme financial instability, these costs can be prohibitive. The logistical barriers are also significant. Individuals without a stable mailing address may have no safe location where these documents can be delivered.

For survivors of domestic violence, the challenge is often compounded by urgency and safety concerns. Survivors frequently must leave unsafe situations quickly with only what they can carry. In many cases, perpetrators intentionally destroy or withhold identifying documents as a form of control.

Another frontline staff member noted:



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“Providing funding for identifying documents is a service long overdue in our community. Supporting access to these documents could significantly reduce barriers to housing, employment, and services for individuals experiencing homelessness and survivors of violence.”

Our staff regularly see how these barriers delay stability. One advocate shared the experience of working with a young mother who had recently fled a domestic violence situation with two small children. Her immediate goal was to secure childcare so she could pursue employment, but she was unable to enroll her children because she could not afford to obtain their birth certificates. While our program was able to assist in that specific case due to the domestic violence context, most residents in Fairbanks do not have access to resources that can cover these costs.

Similarly, we worked with a man who had recently relocated from Anchorage to Fairbanks in hopes of establishing a new life. While recovering from violence, he was experiencing homelessness and faced significant barriers to obtaining identification because he had no stable address where documents could be delivered. His limited income was used primarily for temporary lodging, leaving no ability to pay for identification or secure permanent housing.

These situations are not unique. Identification documents are foundational to accessing housing, employment, education, and essential services. Without them, many young Alaskans remain stuck in cycles of instability despite their efforts to move forward.

HB 334 offers a practical and meaningful solution. By providing one free birth certificate and state identification card to unhoused young adults, expanding identity verification options, and allowing alternative address options, the bill removes a critical barrier that prevents young people from accessing opportunities and getting back on their feet.

For the individuals we serve, identification is not simply paperwork; it is often the first step toward safety and independence.

The Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living strongly supports HB 334 and appreciates Representative Mina’s leadership in advancing policies that address real barriers faced by young Alaskans experiencing homelessness and survivors working to rebuild their lives.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued commitment to improving safety and stability for Alaskans across our state.

Sincerely,

Erin Morotti
Executive Director

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Our mission is to create a culture that values parenting and keeping children safe through education, respect, advocacy, and strengthening families.

March 11, 2026

Re: Support for House Bill 334 – Unhoused Young Adults: IDs and Birth Certificates

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Resource Center for Parents and Children (RCPC), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 334, sponsored by Representative Genevieve Mina.

RCPC serves children, youth, and families in Interior Alaska through prevention services, family support programs, and advocacy for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and trauma. Through our work, we regularly encounter young adults who are unhoused or experiencing housing instability. One of the most common and significant barriers these young people face is the lack of basic identification documents.

HB 334 addresses this barrier by allowing unhoused young adults ages 18–25 to obtain a free certified copy of their birth certificate and a free non-federally compliant state identification card, while also expanding the types of documentation that can be used to verify identity and allowing alternative address options for those without stable housing.

Access to identification is essential for stability and self-sufficiency. Without a birth certificate or state ID, young adults often cannot secure employment, enroll in education or training programs, apply for housing, access healthcare, or obtain many public benefits. For young people who are already navigating the challenges of homelessness, these barriers can make it extremely difficult to move toward safety and independence.

At RCPC, we see firsthand how small administrative barriers can have large consequences for vulnerable youth. By removing the cost and documentation barriers to obtaining identification, HB 334 provides a practical, compassionate solution that will help young Alaskans access the resources and opportunities they need to stabilize their lives.

This legislation represents an important step toward supporting some of Alaska's most vulnerable young people and helping them transition toward independence, employment, and housing stability.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this important legislation. We respectfully urge the committee to support HB 334.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leigh A Bolin, LCSW, MAC'.

Leigh A. Bolin, LCSW, MAC
Executive Director
Resource Center for Parents and Children
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