

33RD ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session

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Juneau, AK 99801
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Interim

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House Military and Veterans
Affairs Committee

House Judiciary Committee

House Ways and Means Committee

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REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW GRAY

House Bill 53

Sponsor Statement

Siblings are often the longest relationships in a person's life.

Youth in foster care experience unimaginable loss through separation from their parents, siblings, homes, schools, communities, and all that they know to be normal. Federal and state laws require child welfare agencies to make every effort to keep siblings together. This can be difficult with limited resources. Siblings may be separated and placed in separate homes or even be adopted out by separate families.

When a child is adopted, the adoption agreement "terminates all legal relationships between the adopted person and the natural parents and other relatives of the adopted person, so that the adopted person thereafter is a stranger to the former relatives for all purposes..."

HB 320 would enshrine into law that siblings of an adopted child would NOT have their legal relationship terminated. It would maintain a lifelong connection for adopted youth with their siblings.