

From: Cheryl Offt
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 12:53 PM
To: House Judiciary <lhsjud@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 200
Importance: High

The most unequal treatment is the equal treatment of those who have never been treated equal ~ quote from a People's Institute for Survival and Beyond Undoing Racism workshop.

Madam Chairman and committee members,

My name is Cheryl Offt, I live in Bethel, Alaska and I fully support HB 200.

In both my work and my personal life here in Alaska as an Alaska Native resident and tribal member, I have seen and heard about far too many of our tribal children adopted out of their families, out of their communities, out of their tribes, even when they had relatives and tribal members willing and ready to take them in. The passing of HB 200 will help the state accomplish equity and fair access for Alaska Native families, efficiency and cost saving measures for the state, support of OCS in their endeavor to achieve increased/improved ICWA compliance. This bill makes sense by allowing equitable access for families/relatives who often reside in rural communities with limited access to formal petition processes, it will save state court and child welfare dollars by supporting a more efficient process within the court system, helps the state improve and become ICWA compliant, and will prevent a lot of heartbreak and loss for our children and our families.

Please show your leadership and support of *Equity, Efficiency and Cost Savings*, and *ICWA Compliance* for our state, for our Alaskan Children and Families. Please pass HB 200.

With respect,

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