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The Honorable Anna Fairclough  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 421  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Fairclough:

As a trustee of the Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) and a longtime supporter and former member of the Friends of the Alaska Children's Trust (FACT), I want to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring House Bill 190, an act amending the Alaska Children's Trust. Your attention and diligence to this matter could result in significantly impacting the incidence of child abuse and neglect in Alaska.

The Finance Committee Substitute for HB190 addresses head-on many of the issues that have made the FACT fundraising and ACT grantmaking processes cumbersome. In particular, the creation of a grant account within the general fund allows FACT volunteers to raise funds from individual Alaskans to support issue-specific grants. If enacted, Alaskans will for the first time have assurances that their gifts to ACT can be directed to a specific purpose.

The ACT and FACT have struggled to find a way to meet the original intent of donors and ensure that their gifts are treated with the highest level of stewardship. While the trustees and friends continue to believe that privatization of the Trust through a public-private sector partnership is still the best approach, this CS to HB190 goes a long way toward resolving issues that have confounded advocates for prevention of child abuse and neglect for many years.

I hope this legislation is favorably considered by your colleagues in the Alaska State Legislature.

Best regards,

Diane Kaplan  
President

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