



REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUÑOZ

## **SPONSOR STATEMENT CSHB 343 (HSS)**

*"An Act relating to disclosure of records of the Department of Health and Social Services pertaining to children in certain circumstances; and providing for an effective date."*

The original version of Committee Substitute for House Bill 343 (Health and Social Services) was introduced at the request of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to:

- 1) Assure that the Division of Juvenile Justice and the Office of Children's Services could exchange information to provide necessary services to children without undue delay.
- 2) Allow individuals with a legitimate interest – such as former clients who once were children in state custody, their parents, or guardians – to receive information about delinquency history and health records from the Division of Juvenile Justice to help them apply for jobs, obtain student loans, or get health care.
- 3) Clarify current law regarding public disclosure of juvenile information which state officials say is cumbersome and difficult to interpret. The legislation strives to preserve legislative intent of balancing public safety through disclosing appropriate information on serious offenders with protecting the confidentiality of offenders who pose less risk to society.

The House Health and Social Services Committee made one change to the original bill on March 15, 2012. Under Section 4, the public disclosure provision, page 5, line 15, it amended the measure to exclude misconduct involving weapons in the fifth degree. The disclosure provisions of the bill now apply to misconduct involving weapons in the first through fourth degrees.

CSHB 343 (HSS) is supported by the Division of Juvenile Justice and the Office of Children's Services.