



BOARD RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN'S PLACE

ADOPTED ON MARCH 14, 2012

The undersigned, being the Board Chair and Executive Director of The Children's Place "The Children's Place", a 501(c)(3) private, not for profit agency providing support and coordination of services related to the evaluation, investigation, and treatment of child abuse to the communities in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, with the approval, direction, and concurrence of the Board of Directors of The Children's Place "The Board of Directors", hereby sign the following resolution in support of SB 210, "An Act Relating to Crimes Against Children":

WHEREAS:

1. The Children's Place and the Board of Directors has become aware through presentation, research, and other important conversations brought by the Children's Justice Act Task Force that the State of Alaska has shortcomings in the current criminal laws regarding the prosecution of harm to children, and;
2. The Children's Place and the Board of Directors are aware that SB 210 works with the recommendations from the Children's Justice Act Task Force to create tougher penalties on crimes committed against children, and;
3. The Children's Place and the Board of Directors knows that in 2008, over 12,000 children were likely victims of at least one type of child maltreatment – approximately 34 children each day; that 1 out of every 5 infant deaths in Alaska is related to maltreatment; that Alaska has one of the highest rates of maltreatment-related infant mortality in the nation; and that child abuse has life-long implications including adverse effects on adult physical and mental health, and;
4. The Children's Place and the Board of Directors believes that young children may be unable to describe what has happened to them (due to age, developmental status or knowledge base) in a way that fits Alaska's current assault or strangulation statutes, and;
5. The Children's Place and the Board of Directors is aware that in some situations, current Alaska state laws do not allow perpetrators of serious child physical abuse and neglect to be held appropriately accountable, and;
6. The Children's Place and the Board of Directors believes that criminal penalties for harming children should be higher than those penalties for harming adults who are much more likely to be able to defend themselves, and;
7. The Children's Place and the Board of Directors requests the Legislature assist our future generations by providing them with laws that protect their rights and create safer communities for their growth and development.

IT IS RESOLVED THAT:

The Children's Place and the Board of Directors urge your support for this legislation.

Kibe Lucas, Board Chair
The Children's Place

Jennifer Burkmire, Executive Director
The Children's Place