

David Scott

From: Trevor Storrs <tstorrs@alaskachildrenstrust.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 4:02 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: Christy Lawton (christy.lawton@alaska.gov)
Subject: HB200 - Support

Dear Senate HSS Committee,

Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) is the statewide lead organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. We applaud the Office of Children Services, DHSS and the Walker Administration for addressing the high number of Alaska Native children in state custody and the need for a strong preference that those children be adopted into Native homes. The success of these children overcoming the trauma they experienced and build the resilience they will need to manage the effects of the trauma are influenced by the environment around them. A key component to managing trauma is cultural/social resilience. Native Children who are adopted by native families have a strong linkage to their cultural heritage which builds resilience. Because of this, ACT supports the goal and purpose of HB 200.

Trevor Storrs

Executive Director

Alaska Children's Trust