



KENAITZE  
INDIAN  
TRIBE

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Bert Stedman  
Chairperson, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
State Capitol Room 30  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chairperson Stedman:

I am writing on behalf of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe to express support for House Bill 200/Senate Bill 112. The tribe believes this bill will positively affect Alaska Native children and families now and into the future.

The bill simplifies the process for Alaska Native families who wish to adopt children connected to them by family or tribal membership. It also eliminates barriers in the adoption process for children in custody so that Alaska Native families can be considered for adoption through the Child in Need of Aid (CINA). Families will be able to assert their desire to adopt a child through the Child In Need of Aid proceeding and would be considered for adoption after the permanency goal changes to adoption.

We have seen these challenges firsthand at the tribe and believe that if this bill passes, it will benefit many Alaska Native children and families across the state.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Jaylene Peterson-Nyren  
Executive Director  
Kenaitze Indian Tribe

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