



2/15/2016

Representative Geran Tarr
State Capitol Room 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Tarr,

It is with great pleasure to provide this letter of support for the House Concurrent Resolution #21 – Adverse Childhood Experiences. Alaska Children’s Trust (ACT) is the lead statewide organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

One of our greatest assets is our children. We know that children who experience adversities (ACES) like abuse, neglect and other traumas are more likely to have poor school performance, abuse substances, and end up incarcerated, among other issues. We also know that the best way to help children deal with trauma are resilience factors including good relationships with competent care givers, social and emotional health, and social connections. By understanding this relationship, we can begin to act in a trauma-informed way.

Local data shows that more than two-thirds of adults surveyed report experience adverse childhood experiences at a rate higher than other states. These adversities have a significant cost to our state both economically and socially. This resolution encourages early intervention and investment in children and families to ensure less trauma and greater resilience.

We encourage the Governor and our State Legislators to work towards making Alaska a trauma-informed state by ensuring decisions take into account the principles of early childhood brain development and how trauma impacts that development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Storrs", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trevor Storrs
Executive Director

First Lady Donna Walker
Honorary Chair

Ginger Baim, *Chair*

Ivy Spohnholz, *Vice Chair*

Lisa Wimmer, *Treasurer*

Melanie Bahnke, *Secretary*

Ramona Reeves, *Past Chair*

Susan Anderson

Elsie Boudreau

Com. Valerie Davidson

Com. Michael Hanley

Carley Lawrence

Sherry Modrow

Thisa Northcutt

Marcus Wilson

Julie Woodworth

