

Dear Representative Gara,

I am writing to offer you my complete support for the Child Protection and Opportunity Act (HB 27), currently under consideration in the House.

Children in state custody, have, by definition, been traumatized by their early life experience. If they are to develop into responsible members of society they require tender care and excellent guidance. All over the United States child protective services agencies are understaffed and overworked and there is a high rate of burn-out and turn-over in case managers. This means that the most vulnerable children in our society are once again being neglected, this time by the very agency that is supposed to protect them.

All of the provisions of the bill are well-founded and they will go a long way to providing better care for foster children and youth. Until changes are made, like those required by HB 27, hard-working, dedicated social workers, like myself, will not enter the child protection field. Not only is the work very demanding and stressful, but every day you must worry about the safety of children for whom you do not have the time nor the allotted resources to provide adequate care.

Thank you for taking a stand, once again, for the youngest Alaskans, and the hope for our future — the children.

Sincerely,

Deborah Bock

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Peace may cost as much as war, but it is a better buy. ~Anon.