

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

716 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage AK 99501-2133  
907-269-0181



State Capitol  
Juneau AK 99801-1182  
907-465-4843  
800-892-4843

North to the Future

**Senator Cathy Giessel**  
Senate District N

## **Sponsor Statement CSSB 180 (JUD) version I**

### **“Parent-Guardian/Child: Temporary Power of Attorney”**

Senate Bill 180 seeks to establish an alternative to placing a child into the foster care system. It allows parents to execute a power of attorney over their minor child **for no more than one year** to another person in order to prevent the child from needing to enter the foster care system.

It allows parents or guardians, who are struggling, to seek help with unemployment, homelessness, addiction, etc. without the concern of losing their child(ren) or being held liable for abandonment, abuse or neglect of the child while they work through these challenges. This bill allows a parent or guardian to execute a power of attorney for no more than one year for their child to be cared for by another person. There are provisions in this bill that allow for military parents or guardians, as well as incarcerated parents to execute a power of attorney for their children. The parent or guardian maintains all their parental rights with the power of attorney.

This bill also creates an exemption for nonprofit organizations that operate programs to assist parents in finding temporary care for a child to be exempt from licensing and other requirements with the Office of Children’s Services when operating the program.

I urge you to support this bill that will help keep families together, keep children safe and help prevent abuse and neglect.