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April 12, 2016

Dear Madam Chairman and committee members,

I fully support HB200. I have seen, and continue to see, tribal members adopted out of their families and our communities even when they had family that were willing to take them. By making it easier for a family member to let the court know they are willing to raise their relative and combining the hearings to include one judge for the family, money will be saved and most importantly, children will be kept closer to their family, community, and culture.

Please understand how important it is to our families that the state doesn't make it so complicated for a family to take care of its own relatives in situations when they are good family members ready to adopt.

Thank you for reading this letter of testimony. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Traci McGarry".

Traci McGarry
Kawerak, Inc. Program Director
Children and Family Services/Child Advocacy Center
PO Box 948
Nome, AK 99762