

George W. Brown, MD Community Pediatrician

1640 Second St. Douglas, AK 99824 gbrow177637@yahoo.com 907 321 0786

Senate Health & Social Services Committee Members
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

April 11, 2016

Honorable Chairman Stedman, Vice-Chairman Giessel, and Senators Kelly, Stoltz, & Ellis:

I am grateful you have added CCSHB 27 for your consideration in this last week of a session crammed with issues in a pivotal time for Alaskan's future. Please pass this legislation for the benefit of children needing foster care in Alaska. I am grateful for the 14 Representatives who have sponsored this bill.

As a physician, I well know that accurate science demands large numbers of subjects and rigorous review. Yet, some anecdotal data can enhance understanding of complex social challenges. You have been made aware of the huge need with limited resources for children suffering ACES whose situations demand out of home placement. This legislation provides some increase of resources for them.

While working at the Alaska Child Study Center of the Division of Public Health from 1970 to 1975 in Anchorage, I had opportunity to testify on behalf of a young child whose foster parents sought adoption. This was granted. More than two decades later, I was most pleased to receive an unexpected phone call from a young woman, studying law in New Jersey. She called to thank me for speaking up for her early adoption by her foster parents. This was a success story of the first order. The provision in HB 27 for enhancing foster parent adoption may allow more at risk children such an opportunity. Such individual benefits are worth far more than actuarial or budget data can calculate.

Thank you, again, for your dedicated public service.

Respectfully,

