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## **31<sup>st</sup> ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE** House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs

REP. Tiffany Zulkosky

Chair State Capitol, Room 416 Juneau, AK 99801 907.465.4942

Rep. Bryce Edgmon Rep. Sarah Vance Rep. John Lincoln Rep. Dan Ortiz Rep. Chuck Kopp Rep. Dave Talerico

House Resolution 7 Sponsor Statement

"Urging the governor to continue to fully implement the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact and build ongoing partnerships between the state and tribal governments."

In an environment of decreased state spending, partnerships based on mutual responsibility to a shared constituency between State and Tribal governments will strengthen program delivery across the state, particularly in our most remote areas. The protection and well-being of the next generation of Alaskans is important to every community, family, and leader in Alaska. The Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact is a historic agreement, the first of its kind, between a state and tribal governments.

Every single child deserves to be protected, loved and nurtured no matter where they live in Alaska. This agreement formalizes a relationship intended to maximize resources to strengthen child welfare resources in more communities and families. Tribal involvement and intervention in child welfare cases has already proven to be more effective and responsive to the needs of rural communities, with improved outcomes and an opportunity to leverage federal funds. By working together, the state and tribal governments can provide a holistic approach, offering wrap-around services that will provide families, foster parents, and children the support they need.

House Resolution 7 encourages Governor Michael Dunleavy to fully implement the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact and build upon the ongoing partnerships between the State and Tribal governments throughout Alaska as it relates to strengthening child welfare.