

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Health & Social Services Committee Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky Chair

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, Vice-Chair Rep. Matt Claman

Rep. Harriet Drummond

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House Health & Social Services Committee Sponsor Statement: HB 305

"An Act relating to the persons required to report child abuse or neglect or a threat of harm to a child; and providing for an effective date."

This legislation seeks to enhance the categories of mandatory reporters to include additional classes of individuals that typically have frequent contact with children; including members of the clergy, individuals who work at animal shelters, first responders and guardians at litem. This legislation also adds an additional reporting requirement for judges of the superior and district courts to notify law enforcement immediately if they believe there exists an imminent threat of harm to a child at the time of issuance of a domestic violence protective order.

Our hope is that we can strengthen protections for children across Alaska by adding additional classes to the existing list of mandatory reporters and reduce children's exposure to abuse and neglect.