



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of  
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE  
Director's Office

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April 9, 2021

Representative Ivy Spohnholz  
State Capitol, Room 406  
Juneau, AK 99801

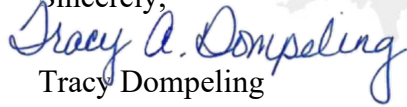
Dear Representative Spohnholz,

The Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is pleased to provide this letter of support for House Bill 116. The bill updates the terms used to describe Division of Juvenile Justice staff and state operated facilities, closes an important loophole in criminal justice statute, and includes DJJ staff in the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. HB116 also makes minor corrections related to the revocation of juvenile driver's licenses and the public disclosure of juvenile delinquency information.

Correcting the outdated terms used to describe DJJ facilities and staff will greatly improve the understanding of legislators, law enforcement, and the public about when statutes apply to the adult versus juvenile justice systems and support the department's effort to enhance these services.

Adding DJJ to the list of mandatory reporter of child abuse and neglect recognizes that youth frequently disclose abuse to these staff, who in turn, make reports to the Office of Children's Services (OCS). DJJ staff make an average of 116 reports to OCS every year.

The Division of Juvenile Justice strongly supports House Bill 116.

Sincerely,  
  
Tracy Dompeling  
Director