



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
Director's Office

P.O. Box 110635
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0635
Main: 907.465.2212
Fax: 907.465.2333

April 9, 2021

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

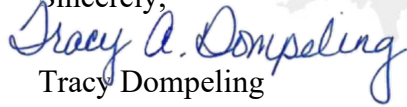
Dear Representative Spohnholz,

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Correcting the outdated terms used to describe DJJ facilities and staff will greatly improve the understanding of legislators, law enforcement, and the public about when statutes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

April 20, 2021

Representative Ivy Spohnholz
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801
Sent via email

Re: HB 116 – Juveniles: Justice, Facilities, Treatment

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority supports HB 116. The statutory updates in this bill will help better serve and protect young Trust beneficiaries who are in contact with the juvenile justice system.

The Trust is supportive of this legislation's emphasis on the protection of Trust beneficiaries who are in the custody of individuals in a position of authority, and appreciates that the bill will require mandatory reporting of cases of child abuse and neglect. We know that the earlier a young beneficiary who has experienced trauma is exposed to positive interventions and supports, the better their health and education outcomes will be.

We appreciate your sponsorship of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Abbott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael K. Abbott
Chief Executive Officer

Alaska Public Employees Association/AFT (AFL-CIO)
State Headquarters/Juneau Field Office
211 4th Street, Suite 306, Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-2334 / (800) 478-9991 / **Fax:** 586-5905
Website: www.apea-aft.org



April 16, 2021

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

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

Thank you for introducing House Bill 116, which will make clarifying updates to Alaska Statutes that will increase protections for children under the State's care. The APEA/AFT Supervisory Unit is pleased to support HB 116. Our represented staff in the Division of Juvenile Justice, the youth and families they serve, and the broader public will benefit from further clarity in the law.

HB 116 will also provide guidance for law enforcement in their decisions to charge crimes, give the Division of Juvenile Justice the additional authority needed to oversee juvenile cases in court, and correct an omission in the statutory definition of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

The SU is in support of HB 116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Penner", is written over a horizontal line.

Brian Penner
Business Manager, APEA/AFT

From: [Thomas Clarke](#)
To: [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#)
Cc: [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Dompeling, Tracy A \(HSS\)](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Megan Holland](#)
Subject: Support - HB 116
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 10:13:25 AM

Representative Spohnholz,

I am writing in support of HB 116. Thank you for sponsoring and carrying forward these important updates to the statutes as they relate to the custody and care of juveniles.

I worked for the Division of Juvenile Justice for over 27 years, from January of 1989 through April of 2016. While I began my career working in the juvenile justice facilities in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Bethel, the vast majority of my state service was spent working as a juvenile probation officer in Barrow and Sitka. Throughout the bulk of my career, in addition to performing the "standard" duties of a juvenile probation officer, I worked on the development, editing, and updating of the policies and procedures for juvenile probation officers. I worked on teams drafting statutory change recommendations and the development/updating of regulations. I provided training to juvenile probation officers and staff regarding statutes, regulations, case law, rules of court and policies and procedures. I also provided training at the Alaska Public Safety Academy to law enforcement officers - troopers, municipal, and village public safety officers - regarding the arrest, detention, transport, jurisdiction of accused juvenile delinquents, status offenders, runaways, abused/neglected children, and mandatory reporting. My job history is only relevant to the point of my having been intimately involved in the minutiae of the very statutes HB 116 impacts.

The changes proposed in HB 116, are long overdue. These changes provide clarification to issues which have been confusing (sometimes confounding) to staff, courts, and law enforcement. The changes, if approved, will close unintended loopholes and will ultimately provide for the increased safety of vulnerable children. In the past there have been attempts to increase the number of hours a volunteer must interact with children in order to qualify as a mandated reporter. I strongly oppose these efforts. An increase to the number of hours to qualify will serve only to decrease the safety net for children, which is, quite simply, unacceptable.

Again, I offer my thanks to you for sponsoring this bill and for considering my thoughts. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Thomas Clarke

[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
cc:

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Senator Bert Stedman

Tracy Dompeling, Director of Division of Juvenile Justice