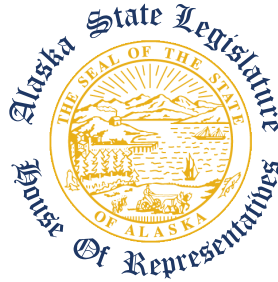


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### ***House Bill 13 – Sponsor Statement***

*"An Act relating to shared child custody; relating to relocation of a child out of state; and relating to a presumption of the best interests of the child in child custody and visitation determinations."*

Children deserve both parents if they are fit, loving, and capable.

Research has shown children have the most positive outcomes when both parents are active in their children's life regardless of current marital status. House Bill 13, the shared parenting bill, intends to mitigate high conflict situations seen in child custody cases with the presumption that *both* parents have equal parenting time in the best interest of the child.

Current statutes state neither parent may have preference over the other parent and allows for 50/50 physical custody to occur, but it does not presume both parents are equal under the law.

The Government shall not compel parents to be active parents, but the Government shall allow for the environment to occur, except in cases when the mother, father, or both seriously endanger the child's physical, mental, moral, or emotional health. This bill allows for the presumption to be rebutted through clear and convincing evidence under the child's best interest guideline.

Children benefit most from cooperating parents and allows both parents to develop a parenting plan conducive to their child's best interest.

Alaskan children are the direct beneficiaries to this bill. I ask you to support Alaska children by supporting this bill.

If you have additional questions, please contact Jesse Logan in my office at 465-4859.