



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Health and Social Services

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
& SPECIAL EDUCATION

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April 8th, 2022

Director John Lee
PO Box 110601
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Via Email: john.lee2@alaska.gov

RE: SB98 – Adult Foster Care for Disabled

Director Lee,

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council) fills a variety of federal and state roles, including serving as the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. As the state DD Council, the Council works with Senior and Disabilities Services and other state agencies to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families receive the services and supports that they need, as well as participate in the planning and design of those services. Our council membership is composed of self-advocates and family members of individuals with intellectual and development disabilities (60%), as well as agency and partner representatives (40%). One of the duties of the state DD Council is providing comments on proposed recommendations that may have an impact on individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families.

We want to offer our strong support for Version 32-GS1708\G of this bill.

Foster care provides children with more support and protection by placement with a qualified and appropriate family and provides an environment more suited to the needs of the child than placement in impersonal institutions or orphanages. The move towards this type of individual circumstance and inclusion for persons with disabilities underpins the Home and Community Based Waiver services which allow eligible Alaskans to avoid placement in an institution and helps them retain more independence and normalcy in their lives. This bill will continue building on the progress made by recognizing the needs for vulnerable adults, including those who have aged out of the foster system, to have stability and adequate supports in place where they live to help them lead meaningful and productive lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Miranda Walso".

Miranda Walso
Executive Director, GCDSE