



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

HHSS

Committee Name

Committee on

Foster care

Bill / Subject

Dated

2/7/2012

Please enter the following
5 resolutions into the record
as requested by Fairbanks
resident Scott Calder

"SCENE BUILDER"

Scott Trafford Calder
Carpenter, Stage Technician

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SIGNED:

Scott Calder via the Lio

Testifier

Representing

Address / Phone Number

By: Bonnie Williams
Introduced: 10/27/05
Adopted: 10/27/05

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6 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

7
8 RESOLUTION NO. 2005 - 71

9
10 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXTERNAL REVIEW OF THE CASE FILES OF
11 CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN PLACED IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY STATE
12 AGENCIES
13

14
15 WHEREAS, the Citizen's Review Panel for Permanency Planning Act was
16 enacted in 1990 and required the appointment of local review panels in each judicial
17 district; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the local panels were to have reviewed the case plans of
20 each child placed in out-of-home state custody; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the Assembly has adopted five other resolutions on this issue
23 asking for compliance with the Act; and
24

25 WHEREAS, public citizens are concerned about children who have been
26 placed in out-of-home care by state agencies particularly when there is no external
27 review of the agency's actions for the purpose of quality assurance; and
28

29 WHEREAS, efforts to develop a different and new system under the title of
30 "Citizen Review Panel" under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA),
31 which was most recently reauthorized on June 25, 2003, by the Keeping Children and
32 Families Safe Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-36), have not met the needs and expectations for
33 government accountability regarding cases of children placed outside their family
34 homes; and
35

36 WHEREAS, possible failure of state and federal governments to provide
37 appropriate external review of case plans of children in state custody as provided in the
38 original Citizen's Review Panel for Permanency Planning Act of 1990 needs to be
39 reviewed; and
40

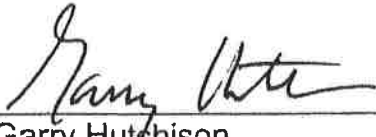
41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the
42 Fairbanks North Star Borough urges the Honorable Governor Frank Murkowski and the
43 Alaska State Legislature to restore and reenact the Citizen's Review Panel under Ch.
44 117 SLA 1990.
45

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly encourages and
47 supports creations of public processes to resolve grievances regarding the care of
48 children.

49
50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly encourages and
51 supports legislation that would safeguard children and families.


52
53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent
54 to the Honorable Governor Frank Murkowski, the Alaska Interior Delegation and
55 Alaska's Congressional Delegation.

56
57 PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF OCTOBER 2005.



Garry Hutchison
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

58
59 Ayes: Romans, Bartos, Sattley, Rex, Williams, Hopkins, Aldridge, Frank, Hutchison
60 Noes: None
61 Excused:
62

1 By: Bonnie Williams
2 Introduced: 06/24/04
3 Substituted: 06/24/04
4 Adopted: 06/24/04
5

6 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

7
8 RESOLUTION NO. 2004 - 50
9

10 A RESOLUTION ASKING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL
11 FOR PERMANENCY PLANNING ACT OF 1990
12

13 WHEREAS, in 1990 the Legislature enacted Ch.117, SLA 1990, which
14 created the Citizens' Review Panels for Permanency Planning in the Department of
15 Administration, and required the appointment of local out-of-home care citizen review
16 panels in each judicial district; and
17

18 WHEREAS, these local panels by law should have reviewed the case
19 plans of each child in out of home placement under state custody, beginning fourteen
20 years ago, to shorten the duration of state custody and encourage custody in a
21 permanent home; and
22

23 WHEREAS, goals of the Act included the best interest of the child, either
24 in restoration to their own family and home, or in the expeditious placement in other
25 secure and permanent homes; and
26

27 WHEREAS, one local panel was appointed 12 years ago experimentally in
28 Anchorage, and was not in compliance with state statute current at the time; and
29

30 WHEREAS, in some cases, the best interest of the children are not being
31 met and in fact, harm, danger and even death have occurred involving children in state
32 custody; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly adopted
35 Resolution No. 96-047, requesting the Governor to appoint a local oversight panel
36 needed in Fairbanks; adopted Resolution 97-027 requesting the same, and adopted
37 Resolution No. 2002-94, requesting compliance with the Act; and
38

39 WHEREAS, no panel has been appointed in the Fourth Judicial District
40 serving Fairbanks, and legislation is needed to correct the causes of this problem,; and
41

42 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State of Alaska to care for its
43 youngest and most vulnerable citizens; and
44


45 WHEREAS, quality assurance and quality care of children in state custody
46 will benefit Alaskans and the State of Alaska in the later years of those same children
47 and others.

48
49 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star
50 Borough Assembly respectfully requests that Governor Frank Murkowski implement a
51 local review panel program in compliance with Ch. 117, SLA 1990.


52
53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly urges each member of
54 the Interior Delegation to sponsor and vote for legislation to create an external, local,
55 citizen review panel program in Fairbanks as part of a statewide program as earlier
56 provided in Ch. 117, SLA 1990.

57
58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to
59 Governor Frank Murkowski and all members of the Interior Delegation.

60
61 PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF JUNE 2004.


Hank Bartos
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

62
63
64 Ayes: Romans, Sattley, Rex, Henry, Williams, Beck, Frank, Aldridge, Cummings, Bartos
65 Noes: None

By: Bonnie Williams
Introduced: 11/21/02
Adopted: 11/21/02

RESOLUTION 2002-94

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL FOR
PERMANENCY PLANNING ACT OF 1990 ASKING FOR COMPLIANCE

WHEREAS, in 1990 the Legislature enacted Ch.117, SLA 1990, which created the Citizens' Review Panels for Permanency Planning in the Department of Administration, and required the appointment of local out-of-home care citizen review panels in each judicial district; and

WHEREAS, these local panels by law shall review the case plan of each child in an out-of-home placement with a view to shortening state custody and encouraging custody in a permanent home; and

WHEREAS, goals of the Act included the best interests of the child, for the good of the child, either in restoration to their own family, or expeditiously into a secure, permanent home; and

WHEREAS, no local panel have ever been appointed in this judicial district; and

WHEREAS, only one local panel has ever been appointed in the past 12 years, that being experimentally in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the best interests of the child cannot be seen to be met; and

WHEREAS, events receiving news coverage in the past several years indicate that the best interests of the child are in fact not being met in some cases; and

WHEREAS, harm, danger and even death have occurred involving children in state custody; and

WHEREAS, a federal audit completed this year revealed serious flaws and concerns in the State's operations; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution No. 96-047, requesting the Governor to appoint a local oversight panel needed in Fairbanks; and adopted Resolution 97-027 requested the same; and

WHEREAS, no panel has yet been appointed in the Fourth Judicial District serving Fairbanks; and

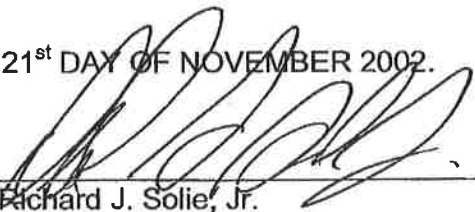
WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State of Alaska to care for its youngest and most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, quality assurance and sound care of children in custody of the State will result in far greater savings of the State in the later years of those same children.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly respectfully requests that Governor-Elect Frank Murkowski consider and appoint a local review panel in Fairbanks in compliance with a state statute passed in 1990.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to all members of the Interior Delegation, the Speaker of the House of the Alaska Legislature, and the respective Chairs of HESS and Judiciary in both the State House and the State Senate:

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER 2002.


Richard J. Solie, Jr.
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

Ayes: Romans, Hutchison, Sattley, Williams, Beck, Frank, Foote, Cummings, Henry, Solie
Noes: None

By: Ladd McBride
Introduced: 03/27/97
Postponed to the Call
of the Chair: 03/27/97
Amended: 04/10/97
Adopted: 04/10/97

RESOLUTION NO. 97-027

**A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE CITIZENS' REVIEW PANEL FOR
PERMANENCY PLANNING ACT OF 1990**

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Legislature enacted Ch. 117, SLA 1990, which created the Citizens' Review Panels for Permanency Planning in the Department of Administration, and required the appointment of local out-of-home external citizen review panels in each judicial district; and

WHEREAS, the local panels, by law, must review the caseplan of each child in out-of home placement to ensure that children do not linger unnecessarily in state custody, but rather, receive the support and benefit of a permanent home; and

WHEREAS, among the goals of the Act is the goal to reunite children with their own families by ensuring that services are available and appropriate for reunification, or otherwise, to expeditiously place the child in a secure, permanent home; and

WHEREAS, although this legislative Act was effective on July 1, 1990, to date, only a "pilot project" review panel in Anchorage has been established using statewide appropriations, leaving the rest of the State unserved; and

WHEREAS, on June 13, 1996, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution No. 96-047, requesting the Governor to appoint a local oversight panel needed in Fairbanks however, no panel has been appointed; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has introduced Senate Bill 73 and House Bill 100, by the request of the Governor and House Bill 127, sponsored by the Health, Education and Social Services Committee, all three would change significantly the original Act.

WHEREAS, these changes would limit local citizen oversight, reduce citizen participation, and disrupt the continuity of service of the citizen volunteers by encouraging political interference and administrative pressures upon the panel members reviewing agencies involved in state custody of children and would severely diminish the effectiveness of the Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Assembly respectfully urges the Governor of the State of Alaska to:

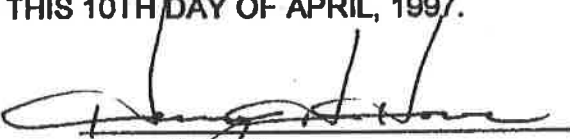
1. Without additional delays, appoint the local out-of-home care external review panels, and the state panel as required by existing state laws in effect since July 1, 1990.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly respectfully requests the Alaska State Legislature to:

1. Extend the sunset termination date for the Citizens' Review Panel For Permanency Planning Act an additional four years as provided by existing statute, with no other changes;
2. Appropriate the funds for foster care review requested by the Governor in his FY '98 Operating Budget Proposal, provided that the Governor agrees to implement the statewide program as originally enacted.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor, State of Alaska; the Honorable Karen Perdue, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services; the Honorable Con Bunde, Chair, House Committee on Health, Education, & Social Services; the Honorable Gary Wilken, Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, & Social Services; and all members of the Interior Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL, 1997.



Henry "Hank" Hove
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC/AAE
Municipal Borough Clerk

Ayes: Kilgore, Parr, Bartos, Quakenbush, McBride, Sonafrank, LaSota, Webb, Sattley
and Hove
Noes: St John

By: Bob Logan
Introduced: 06/13/96
Amended: 06/13/96
Adopted: 06/13/96

RESOLUTION NO. 96-047

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A LOCAL
OVERSIGHT PANEL FOR PERMANENCY PLANNING

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Legislature enacted ch. 117 SLA 1990 relating to the establishment of a Citizen's Review Panel for Permanency Planning both on the state and the local level; and

WHEREAS, provisions in ch. 117 SLA 1990 require the governor to appoint, for each judicial district, a local citizen out-of-the-home care review panel composed of five members and two alternates who are residents of the judicial district; and

WHEREAS, the local panel is required to review the case plan of each child in the custody of the department who is in a placement other than the child's own home; and

WHEREAS, members of the state panel are to be appointed by the governor from among present members of local citizen review panels established under AS 47.10.420; and

WHEREAS, to date only one local panel, operating in Anchorage, has been appointed and the department claims that this panel is a "pilot" panel to be developed as the "Model Panel"; and

WHEREAS, until all of the local panels are appointed, the state panel cannot be selected; and

WHEREAS, because of the ever-increasing juvenile problems in the state which have multiplied dramatically since 1990 and although this legislation was passed by the legislature in 1990 to address the problems that existed then, little has been accomplished to implement the program; and

WHEREAS, concerned citizens throughout the state are urging the establishment of both the state and local panels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly respectfully requests and urges the governor of the State of Alaska to select the panels in each of the judicial districts in the state, not only to implement the statutes adopted by the legislature, but also to provide for the safety and protection of the juveniles of Alaska and their care providers.

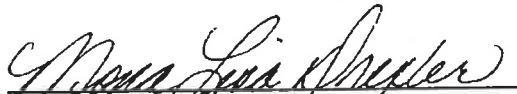
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature is requested to provide for full funding of the State and Local Panels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor, State of Alaska; the Honorable Mark Boyer, Commissioner, Department of Administration, the Honorable Karen Perdue, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services; and all members of the Interior Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF JUNE, 1996.


Cheryl Kilgore
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC/A&E
Municipal Borough Clerk

Ayes: Hackenmiller, Hove, McBride, Quakenbush, LaSota, St. John, Parr, Chizmar
and Kilgore

Noes: None