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Our mission is to create a culture that values parenting and keeping children safe through education, respect, advocacy, and strengthening families.

April 22, 2026

Re: Support for Senate Bill 261 – Unhoused Young Adults: IDs and Birth Certificates

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Resource Center for Parents and Children (RCPC), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 261, sponsored by Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson.

RCPC serves children, youth, and families in Interior Alaska through prevention services, family support programs, and advocacy for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and trauma. Through our work, we regularly encounter young adults who are unhoused or experiencing housing instability. One of the most common and significant barriers these young people face is the lack of basic identification documents.

SB 261 addresses this barrier by allowing unhoused young adults ages 18–25 to obtain a free certified copy of their birth certificate and a free non-federally compliant state identification card, while also expanding the types of documentation that can be used to verify identity and allowing alternative address options for those without stable housing.

Access to identification is essential for stability and self-sufficiency. Without a birth certificate or state ID, young adults often cannot secure employment, enroll in education or training programs, apply for housing, access healthcare, or obtain many public benefits. For young people who are already navigating the challenges of homelessness, these barriers can make it extremely difficult to move toward safety and independence.

At RCPC, we see firsthand how small administrative barriers can have large consequences for vulnerable youth. By removing the cost and documentation barriers to obtaining identification, SB 261 provides a practical, compassionate solution that will help young Alaskans access the resources and opportunities they need to stabilize their lives.

This legislation represents an important step toward supporting some of Alaska's most vulnerable young people and helping them transition toward independence, employment, and housing stability.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this important legislation. We respectfully urge the committee to support SB 261.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leigh A. Bolin, LCSW, MAC'.

Leigh A. Bolin, LCSW, MAC
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