



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Mayor's Office

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January 22, 2024

To: House State Affairs Committee

Cc: Representative Maxine Dibert

Dear Representative Shaw and members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to extend support for House Bill 188: An act relating to animal adoption and foster care records.

The bill would give protection to the privacy of those who are providing foster care for an animal or that have adopted an animal by exempting those records from public record requests. As the law is currently written, these records are subject to records requests which poses a potential safety risk.

It is not unheard of for individuals who have surrendered animals, for any number of reasons, to use access to these records to track down current owners of those animals and intimidate or threaten them. This discourages people from being willing to foster or adopt animals from our shelter.

We feel the passage of this bill would assist in our ability to get animals into loving forever homes and protect our citizens' privacy. I urge the hearing and passage of HB188 from your committee. These are small steps that will make a difference and clarify statute in the long run.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Bryce Ward, Mayor