



Kim Champney <kim@champneyconsulting.com>

letter of support

1 message

Jo-Anne Sullivan <jsullivan@hopealaska.org>
To: "kim@champneyconsulting.com" <kim@champneyconsulting.com>

Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 11:36 AM

Dear Senator Micciche,

I am writing in support of the Alaskan DD Shared Vision initiative.

I am a registered nurse and have been working in the field of IDD for almost 30 years. It has been my experience that all people wish to feel stability and security in their lives. Once this foundation is made possible, each person is able to choose their own distinct path along life's journey. Some are more adventuresome, some less so, but all desire to be captain of their own ship.

For too long the security and stability of people who experience IDD have been affected by the mercurial whims of government, politics and shifting social priorities.

Please assist us to ensure that the lives of individuals who experience IDD have the same potential for security, stability, and self-direction that you and I have.

Respectfully,

Jo-Anne Sullivan, RN

Jo-Anne M. Sullivan, RN

Deputy Director, Health & Wellness Supports

Hope Community Resources, Inc.

540 W. International Airport Road

Anchorage, AK 99518

Tel. (907) 433-4778

Fax (907) 272-8807

January 5, 2018

Dear Senator Micciche,

I am currently working with a DD provider in the Anchorage area and I have been with this particular agency for 20 years. I stay with the agency because I believe in what it stands for and our shared vision. I believe the state needs the same. Please help us achieve this by communicating:

That getting the shared vision written into statute, once it is, the Shared Vision will provide a solid platform for how services are provided throughout the state.

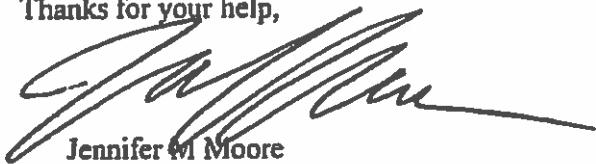
That the Shared Vision clearly establishes that individuals with disabilities should receive support to lead the way in directing their own lives which is crucial to having fully inclusive communities within Alaska and results in a much richer and more diverse state.

That Autonomy derived from self-direction enhances quality of life by increasing independence and confidence which can support skills to better protect individuals from abuse.

That the philosophical framework will not change with every change in political leader or shift in funding/resources.

That limited resources will stretch further if people with disabilities are empowered to be more included in their communities and less reliant on the paid service system.

Thanks for your help,



Jennifer M. Moore

Director, Hope Studios

Hope Community Resources

February 5, 2018

To the Alaska State Legislature,

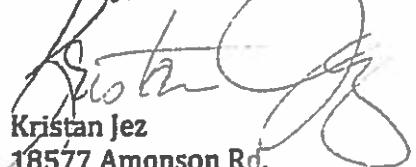
I strongly urge you to support the Shared Vision for Alaska's developmentally disabled population. The Shared Vision clearly establishes that individuals with disabilities should receive supports that lead the way for them to direct their own lives, which is crucial to having fully inclusive communities within Alaska.

Once written in statute, the Shared Vision will provide the foundation for how services are provided throughout the state. The philosophical framework will not change with every change in political leadership or shift in funding/resources. This allows for stability within the system and gives families a safer sense of security.

If people with disabilities are empowered to be more included and a part of their community, they can become less reliant on paid service, which will help stretch the limited resources available.

Please do the right thing, support the Shared Vision and write it into statute.

Sincerely,



Kristan Jez
18577 Amonson Rd.
Chugiak, AK 99567
krisjez@mtaonline.net

February 5, 2018

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol Room 508
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: DD Shared Vision

I am writing to you in support of writing into statute the DD Shared Vision. Once the Shared Vision is in statute supports provided to individuals with disabilities will be guided by a specific framework across administrations or shifts in resources. The DD Shared Vision establishes the core value that people with disabilities should receive support that are directed by them, which is critical to having fully inclusive communities. Quality of life is enhanced for people with disabilities when they have the autonomy to direct their own lives and allows them greater independence, increased confidence and stronger self-advocacy. Available resources will stretch further when people with disabilities are empowered to be more included in their communities and less reliant on the paid service system.

Thank you for your support of people with disabilities and their desire to direct their own lives to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Adkison
115 Troy Ave
Juneau, AK 99801



February 5, 2018

Senator Micciche,

Crossroads Counseling & Training Services supports embedding the Shared Vision into state statute in order to provide guidance and clarity regarding the belief that people who experience disabilities should receive support that assists them in leading their own lives in their own communities. In this way, fully inclusive communities will be born from the impact of the strength, desire and input of community members. It is the autonomy from self-direction that truly enhances an individual's quality of life and confidence. These skills are natural protective factors for vulnerable individuals as well as supportive in a manner that will reduce the need for paid supports. Enshrining the vision in the regulation will support further independence regardless of political changes in the legislature.

Thank you to Senator Micciche, for supporting the long-term wellbeing for people with disabilities by enshrining the Shared Vision in the regulation. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (907) 455-9737.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Nelson".

Nicole Nelson, MPS
Executive Director



Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801

The Arc of Anchorage
2211 Arc Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

T (907) 277-6677
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www.thearcofanchorage.org

February 5, 2018

Senator Micciche,

The Arc of Anchorage is excited about the work Alaskans have done over the past year through partnership of local and state agencies to create the Developmental Disabilities Shared Vision. As a member of the Alaska Developmental Disability Collaborative, I am enthusiastic about the progress Alaska has made and the group's support to ensure that the center of our Shared Vision is about self-determination for Alaskans with developmental disabilities (DD):

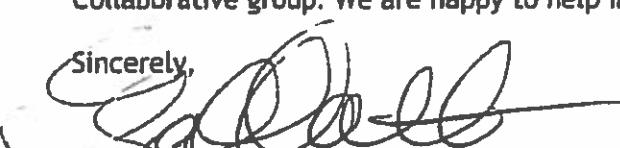
"Alaskans share a vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job and their community. Our vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future."

As a representative from The Arc, I applaud your effort as a legislator to support a bill that reflects this vision -- to ensure Alaskans who experience developmental disabilities (DD) can receive adequate services to meet their individual needs, wherever they live in our state. With your leadership, your bill can positively impact thousands of people, including the families of individuals living with DD in our state.

Not only is your dedication to this issue important to the individuals impacted, but your bill will also serve all Alaskan communities as a whole. Communities will become more inclusive, more diverse and offer more opportunities for individuals with DD to live more independently with confidence. Resources will be available in their community of choice, and the self-direction in how they want to live their lives will help them gain skills and be empowered to be involved in their community. These factors, combined with the autonomy from the platform of the Shared Vision, will then lead Alaskans with DD to the benefits of having less reliance on the paid service system and an increase of protection from abuse that is prevalent in this vulnerable population.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all Alaskans, especially those who experience disabilities. We look forward to following your work on this bill. If you need a resource, I invite you to contact myself or any agency serving within the Alaska Developmental Disability Collaborative group. We are happy to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,


Barbara Rodriguez-Rath
Chief Executive Officer
brath@thearcofanchorage.org | 907.777.0127

Achieve with us.

To make concern,

My name is Travis Noah. I am a constituent that experiences a physical disability known as cerebral palsy. I believe in the DD collaborative vision statement because it is designed to make individuals who experience challenges of all different types have control over their individual lives to the best of their ability, for this to happen however the vision statement needs to be put into statute.

The collaborative vision statement being put in the statue is important because it will guarantee that the standards of care provided will never change. This also guarantees that we will be able to have fully inclusive lives with our friends and families and our surrounding community. To give a prime example of this I'm an individual that has a part-time job I work generally five days a week and I love what I do I get to help other people with special needs make sure that they are needs and issues are being taken care of. I would not be able to have this job however if I did not have the care that is provided to me, or have the control over my life that I currently have.

Sincerely,

Travis Noah
714 W. 75th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
907-388-2424

February 6, 2018

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Senator Micciche,

I am a mother of a teenage boy with Autism, Intellectual Disability and Seizure.

Since the day my son was diagnosed up to this minute, I am truly grateful for the support, resources, opportunities and encouragement my family and him have received through all these years. All these allowed him to live his life fully.

It is understandable for us, his parents, to direct his life in his earlier years. As he grew older, taking time to truly know what he wants, needs, desires and aspires for... was imminent ... in order to direct his life in a way that truly reflects who he is and what he wants especially now that he is a full fledged teenager. All these steps that we have taken will not be possible without supports-whether in school, community or at home if the no one took the time to listen, advocate and implement within reasonable accommodations and realistic goals and expectations..to truly reflect our son. I believe that him...just like any human desires autonomy in their lives and in the way to live it even if they do not have the best cognitive faculties to do so.

Senator Micciche, I fully support state statutes that reflect autonomy or even supported decision making for people with developmental disabilities or those who have acquired cognitive challenges in order to enhance their quality of life by supporting them to increase independence and consequently confidence and gain dignity. I support community programs that promote inclusivity when possible and done safely.

The past two years have been challenging and scary for my family because of budget shortfall both at the federal and state level. The constant threat to cutting funding for people with developmental disabilities-whether it be in school or the community increases perception from their families what a public burden their loved one is. While we, as a family, do our best to limit or use wisely the public resources given to us...we also long to see our son be set in a path where he will also be perceived as a productive member of the Alaskan community. If only pooled knowledge and resources can also be done in order to empower people with developmental disabilities to be more included in their communities and have programs to make them less reliant on paid services.

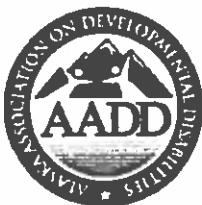
I end this letter with a lot of hope that a state statute proposed by you in a Senate hearing that will enable people with developmental disabilities be empowered to live the most autonomous life they can ever live in a community that is inclusive to a point that they are less reliant on paid system ...come to fruition.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Maria Del Rosario
MARIA DEL ROSARIO

joel_kiss@hotmail.com



AADD
ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
P.O. Box 241742
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

To facilitate a united provider voice for best practices, advocacy, partnerships and networking.

February 6, 2018

Dear Senator Micciche,

AADD, the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, is the professional association representing the voice of forty six organizations in Alaska that provide home and community based services to individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Association has been an active and strong supporter of the development of the Shared Vision. The Vision brings a renewed energy and excitement to the work the provider community. The Shared Vision reminds each of us why we have dedicated our professional life to this field and where we want the focus of services to be, on the individual being supported.

We are so appreciative of your efforts to embed the Shared Vision in statute. In statute this Shared Vision will provide a consistent and strong platform for individuals to lead their own services, rather than a bureaucracy. It enriches their lives and the fabric of the community in which they participate. Services matching the Shared Vision will provide for a more independence life and greater personal confidence for individuals. This will help stretch limited funds farther with greater participation in the community involving unpaid natural supports.

Having the Shared Vision in statute will assure that the underlying philosophy of dignity, respect and choice doesn't change with shifts in funding or political leaders. Thank you again for your time, attention and efforts on behalf of so many individuals in Alaska both providing and receiving services and supports.

Sincerely,

Lizette Stiehr
Executive Director
AADD



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

Senior and Disabilities Services
Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special
Education
Patrick J. Reinhart, Executive Director

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Main: 907.269.8990
Fax: 907.269.8995

February 6, 2018

RE: Letter of Support for the Developmental Disabilities Shared Vision Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

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 (SDS) and other state agencies to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports that they need, as well as participate in the planning and design of those services. One of the duties of the state DD Council is providing comments on bills that may have an impact on individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families.

To this end, the Council would like to issue this letter of support for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Shared Vision Bill which would enshrine this vision, through aspirational language, in statute.

The DD Shared Vision offers the following important guiding language developed by individuals with disabilities, family members, service providers, state agency staff, and community members:

"Alaskans share a vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job and their community. Our vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future."

Once written into statute, the DD Shared Vision will provide a solid platform for how services are provided throughout the state. This ensures that individuals with developmental disabilities will receive services that lead to meaningful lives, for current and future generations of Alaskans. It will solidify a spirit of self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities within the Alaskan service system. The DD Shared Vision clearly establishes that individuals with disabilities should receive support to lead the way in directing their own lives which is crucial to having fully inclusive communities within Alaska and results in a much richer and more diverse state. Autonomy derived

from self-direction enhances quality of life by increasing independence and confidence which can support skills to better protect individuals from abuse.

With aspirational language added to AS 44.29 relating to the DD Shared Vision, there will be a solid platform for the State of Alaska as it moves through major system transformation associated with SB 74 as well as other future changes. The DD Shared Vision is anchored in person-centered thinking, self-determination, and individualization. The DD Shared Vision will guide our state in times of strong fiscal resources as well as in times of fiscal shortfalls thus the DD Shared Vision statement is absent any fiscal language. Regardless of the particular level of fiscal resources, the DD Shared Vision will guide decision-making in a manner that supports meaningful lives for Alaskans with developmental disabilities.

The Council stands ready with its partners in the Alaska Developmental Disability Collaborative to complete the work necessary to make the vision a reality and fully supports the Developmental Disabilities Shared Vision Bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maggie Winston".

Maggie Winston, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Reinhart".

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director

Trust

Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508
Tel 907.269.7960
www.mhtrust.org

February 6, 2018

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol Room 508
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Letter of Support for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Vision Collaborative

Senator Micciche:

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Alaska Mental Health Trust's commitment to and support of the DD Vision Collaborative. The Trust has been proud to support this effort since inception and continues to work closely with the collaborative and its members to integrate the Vision into policy and practice.

The Vision offers a solid platform to guide developmental disability service delivery throughout the state. The Shared Vision clearly establishes that individuals with disabilities should receive support to lead the way in directing their own lives which is crucial to achieving fully inclusive communities within Alaska and results in a richer and more diverse state. Additionally, the Vision exemplifies a fiscally responsible framework that maximizes family and community resources through empowerment of people with disabilities which ultimately reduces reliance on the paid service system.

We appreciate your support of the DD Shared Vision and look forward to working with you and your staff to embed its tenants into state statute.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Abbott
Chief Executive Officer