

March 26, 2025

Office of Senator Scott Kawasaki
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801



RE: Support for Senate Bill 129 - Payment of Contracts

Senator Kawasaki,

Alaska Children's Trust offers our strong support for Senate Bill 129, which would ensure timely payment from the State of Alaska to parties that provide essential support under state agreements. As the statewide lead organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, we support policies that strengthen communities to provide for Alaska's families. Senate Bill 129 does this by ensuring both state and federal pass-through funds are disbursed promptly to non-profits, local governments, and tribal organizations, benefiting the people of Alaska and their families.

Senate Bill 129 establishes mechanisms to mitigate delays in payments from state agencies through grants, contracts, and reimbursements. Alaska nonprofits continue to experience long delays in payment that have impacted Alaska communities and the state's economy, putting at risk the ability of Alaskans to access essential services. Additionally, the legislation emphasizes that timely payments from the State of Alaska are essential for nonprofit, municipal, and tribal partners to execute state policy in an efficient manner.

According to KIDS COUNT, in 2023, 37,000 families access public assistance, accounting for 21% of Alaska's families with children. Families who access public assistance likely also access services provided by non-profit, municipal, and tribal organizations partnering with the State of Alaska. Delays in payment have affected services from child care to domestic violence services, to housing, food security, public safety and more. Services like these all play an essential role in preventing child abuse and neglect in the State of Alaska.

Senate Bill 129 would support the work of Alaska's nonprofits, local governments, and tribal organizations to provide resources for Alaska's families. Timely payment to support the work of these entities is important for strengthening Alaska's families and communities. Thank you for introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ Storrs', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trevor J. Storrs
President & CEO