



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
Director's Office

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March 5, 2018

Representative Ivy Spohnholz
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

The Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is pleased to provide this letter of support for House Bill 351. The bill updates the terms used to describe Division of Juvenile Justice staff and state operated facilities and includes DJJ staff in the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. HB351 also makes minor corrections related to the revocation of juvenile driver's licenses and the public disclosure of juvenile delinquency information.

Correcting the outdated terms used to describe DJJ facilities and staff will greatly improve the understanding of legislators, law enforcement, and the public about when statutes apply to the adult versus juvenile justice systems and support the department's efforts to improve these services.

Adding DJJ to the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect recognizes that youth frequently disclose abuse to these staff, who in turn, make reports to the Office of Children's Services (OCS). DJJ staff make an average of 80 reports to OCS every year.

The Division of Juvenile Justice strongly supports House Bill 351.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy A. Dompeling".

Tracy Dompeling
Director

Cc: Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson, Commissioner
Karen Forrest, Deputy Commissioner for Family, Community & Integrated Services
Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Office of Governor Bill Walker