

February 21, 2016

To whom it may concern:

My name is Brian Schaffer and I serve as the Outreach Pastor at ChangePoint church. I am active on numerous councils, coalitions, and committees as a way to foster the relational and functional unity in our city and state as we address some of the most important issues facing the welfare of Alaska. One of the groups that I enjoy working with the most is the Fostering Hope Coalition that is comprised of executive level leaders from a variety of agencies, state offices, businesses, churches, and concerned parents. Beacon Hill and Safe Families for Children Alaska are strategic partners within this group and I am encouraged by their vision that is leveraging people resources to meet the needs of the children and families that find themselves in desperate situations.

I am compelled to write this letter because of my strong belief that children are a gift from God given to parents as a way to make this world a better place. My wife and I were blessed with the privilege and responsibility of raising three boys. I am grateful that we had a strong community of people around us to provide guidance, counsel, and support on the days we didn't know what to do. It took courage to admit our shortcomings and reach out for help. We are better parents and our adult children are well prepared to start their own families today because of the people who stepped up to help us in our time of need. We were fortunate to have a structure in place where we could seek out assistance without fear of our rights being terminated as parents. The preventative resources that were available to us as parents were a lifeline to us, so this is one of many reasons why I am writing in support of Senate Bill 180 and House Bill 201—Parent-Guardian/Child Temporary Power of Attorney.

I am a firm supporter of Beacon Hill as they operate Safe Families for Children Alaska without funding from either the state or federal government. This is wise stewardship and worth being recognized as a way for each person to have the opportunity to love their neighbors through acts of compassion and words of life. The passing of these bills and un-interrupted operation of Safe Families for Children Alaska will save the state money and provide much needed relief to our foster care system.

Thank you for your service to our great state! Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have for me. I look forward to the opportunity.

Sincerely,



Brian Schaffer

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