



STATE of ALASKA

Bethel Legislative Information Office

PO Box 886
Bethel, Alaska 99559
(907) 543-3541
Fax- 543-3542

Written Testimony
for the
Record:

TCN: 4477

Committee: H/S 465-3422

Date: 3/29/2016

Bill Number(s): HB 200

Subject(s): Alaska Adoption Rules

Please enter my testimony into the record.

Ana Hoffman
Testifier's name (s):

Alaska Federation of Nurses
Representing (opt.)

PO Box 2874, Bethel, AK 99559
Address

(907) 545-4151
Phone

Anastasia Hoffman
PO Box 2374
Bethel, AK 99559
907-545-4151

Alaska State Legislature
House Health and Social Services Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 200

March 29, 2016

Dear Committee Chair Representative Paul Seaton and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 200, Adoption of Child in State Custody. I fully support HB 200, a bill that will strengthen families in Alaska and streamline the process for Child in Need of Aid cases. As a former Magistrate and Standing Master with the Alaska Court System, I know the complexities involved in these civil matters. The system can be intimidating to people unfamiliar with court proceedings and unwelcoming to those with limited access to legal resources. HB 200 helps to bring focus back to the heart of the matter, ensuring that caring and nurturing family and friends are given an opportunity to provide for the well-being, safety and security of Alaska's children.

Not only will HB 200 streamline the CINA process and bring efficiencies to the court system, it will also advance the intent of the Indian Child Welfare Act. HB 200 will help the State of Alaska build stronger relationships with Alaska's first people by defining the proxy for formal petition and ensuring the ICWA placement preferences are observed. Through HB 200 the State of Alaska Office of Children's Services will work in partnership with Alaska Natives families and friends to establish paths for permanency for children facing uncertainty and turmoil in their young lives.

In Alaska, there is a desperate need to create a system that will reduce the amount of time children are held in state custody. The name of the bill says it all: "An Act establishing procedures related to a petition for adoption of a child in state custody; adding a definition of 'proxy for a formal petition'; amending Rule 6(a), Alaska Adoption Rules; and providing for an effective date." I look forward to January 1, 2017 as a brighter day for Alaska's many children in need of compassionate and loving adoptive home.

Quyana,



Ana Hoffman, Bethel
Co-Chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives