

Facing Foster Care in Alaska
PO Box 92644
Anchorage, AK 99509



Senator Lesil McGuire
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau AK, 99801

March 19th, 2015

The Honorable Senator Lesil McGuire,

We are writing to express the support of Facing Foster Care in Alaska (FFCA) of Senate Bill 49. FFCA is an organization of current and former foster youth from across Alaska working to improve outcomes for some of the most vulnerable Alaskans. Youth who age out of Alaska's foster care system are at high risk of homelessness, incarceration, early pregnancy, and lifelong reliance on social services. For former foster youth, lack of access to legal assistance can lead to an increased risk of homelessness, lack of healthcare, and access to much needed services to meet their most basic needs.

Senate Bill 49 seeks to amend AS 37.05.590 so that up to 25% of Court System filing fees can be appropriated by the Legislature to the Civil Legal Services Fund each year to provide access to the civil legal aid for low-income Alaskans with critical legal needs

More than 1% of Alaska's children are in foster care, and this number is only expected to rise. This means more youth aging out of the system each year, at risk of hardship. We are dedicated to ensuring that all of Alaska's foster youth have equal access to our civil justice system, not just those who can afford an attorney. The long term impacts of Senate Bill 49 promote healthy, stable Alaskan's.

Regards,

Amanda Metivier, MSW
Executive Director
Facing Foster Care in Alaska