



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

The Honorable Chris Tuck
State Capitol Room 216
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

February 3, 2022

Dear Representative Tuck:

On behalf of military families, the Department of Defense (DoD) requests your consideration of HB297. This policy assists the military services to coordinate with the authorities within the State of Alaska to obtain information regarding allegations of child abuse and neglect involving children of military families. The proposed policy represents the DoD top issue for 2022 which seeks to identify military children subject to child abuse and neglect allegations, and to notify the appropriate military installation Family Advocacy Program (FAP).

The DoD is required by Section 1787 of Title 10, United State Code, to establish the FAP to address prevention of, and response to, child abuse and neglect cases involving children in military families. The DoD has Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between its military services and community agencies to fulfill this statutory obligation, but faces statutory barriers that inhibit communication and coordination.

The policy represented in HB297, which directs the collection and sharing of military affiliation with the appropriate military authorities, would not only complement the statutory responsibility of the DoD, it would support development of more consistent agreements between military protective authorities and the State of Alaska to allow better coordination of services to abused and neglected military children.

We are grateful to the bill Sponsor, Representative Hopkins, for presenting this critical issue for military families before the Alaska legislature. Again, we appreciate Alaska's incredibly supportive efforts for military members and families. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 571-424-8264 or Tammie.L.Perreault.civ@mail.mil if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tammie L. Perreault
Northwest Regional Liaison (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY)
Defense-State Liaison Office
Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

Cc: Representative Hopkins