



May 4, 2021

The Honorable Josiah Patkotak
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau AK, 99801
Representative.Josiah.Patkotak@akleg.gov

The Honorable Donald Olson
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau AK, 99801
Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov

RE: Support for HB 184 – Require Tribal Child Welfare Compact

Dear Representative Patkotak and Senator Olson:

Maniilaq Association (“Maniilaq”) writes today in support of HB 184 – Require Tribal Child Welfare Compact. Headquartered in Qikiqtagruk (Kotzebue), Maniilaq is a tribal organization providing health, social, and tribal government services to the twelve tribes of Northwest Alaska. Maniilaq has been providing child welfare services throughout our Service Area for decades and is a signatory to the landmark Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (the “Compact”).

Alaska Native children make up 15% of the State’s population, but represent a disproportionate share of kids in State custody, approximately 65% of kids in State custody are Alaska Native. By entering into the Compact, the State and the Compact signatories created a framework for providing culturally responsive services to children and families as close to home as possible. The wisdom behind this is that Alaska Native cultures are protective factors for our vulnerable youth, and our boots-on-the-ground Tribes and Tribal organizations are optimally positioned to provide the services needed to ensure our kids get the best chance at a fulfilling life as valued Tribal citizens and residents of the State of Alaska.

This legislation will ensure that the good work of the State and signatories to build this partnership transcends across current and future administrations so that we may focus on the task at hand of serving our youth and families. Additionally, it enables us to continue to build our service delivery models in a way that leverages the variety of resources we have access to as Tribes and Tribal Organizations.

Sincerely,

Tim Gilbert
President/CEO

MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION | P.O. BOX 256 | KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 | 1.800.478.3312

Kotzebue Qikiqtagruk, Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivaliniq, Kobuk Laugviik, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Point Hope Tikigaq, Selawik Akuligaq, Shungnak Isinnaq