

From: Wilson, Tammie (HSS) [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 5:42 PM

To: Sen. Mike Shower <sen.mike.shower@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lora Reinbold <Sen.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Roger Holland <Senator.Roger.Holland@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; tammie.l.perreault.civ@mail.mil

Subject: HB297

Good Afternoon,

Tammy Perrault requested that I weigh in on HB297. I support HB 297.

This legislation would place into statute the requirement that the Office of Children Services must notify the appropriate, identified, authorities at the affiliated duty station. This would allow the military to make early contact with their service families letting them know of services currently available to them. It could ultimately prevent children from going into custody because the military could now be proactive. Currently the only other entity that receives this type of information is our tribes. Many of our tribes currently have prevention programs in which parents can take advantage of services without having their children placed into custody.

After working with parents for many years, I know the sooner wrap around services can be put into place, it significantly lowers the chance that their children will be removed. This will allow the Family Advocacy Program to address any potential child abuse or neglect allegations early on. It will also not be a duplication of services. When OCS determines a child is in need of aid, they write a case plan that specifies what services they need to participate in. Many of these services can be provided through the Family Advocacy Program.

Our military makes a lot of sacrifices each and every day. However, many do not always know where to go for help when they are in crisis. This legislation will allow more preventive measures, to not just be put in place, but give them access to families most in need of help.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please support this legislation.

Sincerely,
Tammie Wilson