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**From:** Laura Bonner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 11:12 AM  
**To:** House Finance; Rep. Julie Coulombe  
**Cc:** Laura Bonner  
**Subject:** Support for SB57

Co-Chair Edgmon  
Co-Chair Foster  
Co-Chair Johnson  
Representative Coulombe  
Members of House Finance Committee

I fully support SB 57 as passed by the Senate.

It would help many families to care for their loved ones who struggle with dementia, complex medical needs for minor children or a disabled adult who can't function on their own. Trained direct care workers are difficult to find due to a shortage of them. The low pay is a contributing factor to the shortage. As a result, many families are caring for these individuals without pay in their homes and the additional support their loved ones need. SB 57 will go a long ways to help these individuals and their families. Many of the individuals have complex medical needs as well as cognitive disabilities. Some have behavior issues. Some have all three and then some. Finding the right caregiver is crucial even if it's just for some respite for the 24/7 caregiver for the mental, phusical, and social health of that caregiver.

SB 57 provides enhanced caregivers support for individuals and vulnerable elders, many who need care 24/7. I allows for a new entity of adult care homes and defines care as providing for the physical, mental, and social needs of an individual. SB 57 will allow individuals to stay in their communities and contributing to their communities to the best of their abilities despite their disabilities.

I have been the primary caregiver for my adopted daughter since she was 4 months old. She is now 25 and not able to live on her own. She needs to have direct support 24/7 at home and in the community to keep her safe. She lives with me but I'm in my seventies and eventually she will have to move an assisted living or group home setting. SB 57 will give us more options for her future.

Please support and pass SB 57.

Laura Bonner  
House District 11  
Anchorage AK 99516

## Support HB 58/SB 57 Adult Home Care Services

### **ASK**

**Ask the House members to support HB 58, “Adult Home Care; Med Assistance” and Senators to support its companion bill, SB 57**

### **What does this bill do?**

HB 58/SB 57 establishes a new residential setting category, “Adult Care Home,” in which a smaller, non-business home can provide care for no more than 2 individuals, up to 3 based on circumstances. The bill was originally brought forth to address youth in foster care who are aging out of the system but was expanded to include other adult populations who are not in foster care who would benefit, such as seniors.

This bill will help address the shortage of services and settings for seniors and other individuals who require help with the activities of daily living and other assistance to live more independently. HB 58/ SB 57 creates an option that may enable some people to remain in a community setting when they might otherwise need to leave their communities and move into an institution, such as a nursing home.

This includes youth who are in foster care that are aging out of the system, and need a transition from licensed foster care through OCS into an adult care home license for the purpose of maintaining the placement of the youth and services provided to an individual. The youth must also be enrolled in home and community-based waiver services, be 18 years or older, the individual's support plan is approved for adult home care services.

This bill allows for the youth to transition from a licensed foster care home to a licensed adult care home. It provides a simple and efficient process to allow a licensed foster parent to transition from the foster home license to an adult care home license for the purpose of maintaining the placement of the youth and to continue the services that are already in place.

The bill would also implement standards for operating adult care homes, create standards for long term care and support for the individual, and allow for payment to the care provider. This bill:

- allows family members to care for individuals and receive financial support for their service.
- allows for a continuity of care for the individual and provides the necessary support for the family that is providing this care, with decreased administrative burden than is normally required for an adult assisted living home
- provides an opportunity for enhanced support for caregivers of individuals with disabilities who are in foster care and aging out of the foster care system.
- allows youth with disabilities who are in foster care to continue to live with their current foster family after leaving state's custody as they transition to adult care.
- addresses workforce crisis.
- authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to pay for services under the state's Medicaid program.
- authorizes DOH to develop the Adult Care Home license and establish rules and regulations.
- The bill also will create a new service, Adult Home Care similar to foster care license, that will ensure providers are qualified and supported in providing care to these individuals.

### **Why is this bill needed?**

This bill will help address the shortage of services and settings for seniors and other individuals who require help with the activities of daily living and other assistance to live more independently. HB 58/ SB 57 creates an option that may enable some people to remain in a community setting when they might otherwise need to leave their communities and move into an institution, such as a nursing home.

Youth placed in foster care who experience disabilities that would otherwise require a level of care provided in an institution can qualify for waiver services, including residential services. In these cases, a foster parent can receive a daily foster care stipend or may become certified to provide child family home habilitation to the youth. Payment rates for both are intended to cover the recipient's need for 24/7 care. In certain situations, and if justified in a child's support plan, personal care services can also be provided to the child in the licensed home.

When youth transition to adulthood, the foster care payment is no longer available because the youth is no longer in OCS custody. Other options to support their living needs:

## GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

- either pay less or have higher requirements for certification.
- Do not allow personal care services to be provided; and
- would require the foster parent to license their home as an assisted living home.
- allows for the youth to remain in the same home they have been living;
- enable the foster parent to continue to receive adequate support to provide 24/7 care;
- allow for personal care services if the individual's support plan demonstrates this need; and
- provide oversight to ensure that the home is a safe and positive setting in which the individual's needs can be met, without requiring that the home setting be licensed as an assisted living home.

The workforce crisis requires immediate intervention to allow Medicaid Waiver recipients alternative options to care, in a least restrictive, least intrusive setting.

### How many individuals will this bill affect?

This bill will be of value to youth in foster care as well as others, such as seniors. There are about 2500 seniors who would be eligible for Adult Home Care. There are currently about 50 youth in foster care that are either placed on a home and community-based waiver or waiting to receive these services. About 5 are graduating from foster care and moving to adulthood and remaining on the waiver this year. The Office of Children's Services estimates that a maximum of 10 of these youth will age out of the foster care system each year.

### What is the fiscal impact of this bill?

#### Fiscal Note 1

	FY2024 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2024 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
Personal Services	105.0		105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	210.0
Travel	10.0		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	20.0
Services	14.0		14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	28.0
Commodities	4.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>133.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>263.0</b>

## GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

One full-time Community Care Licensing Specialist 1 (including benefits): Range 16, Anchorage: \$105.0 in FY2024 and beginning in FY2029 and beyond two Community Care Licensing Specialists will be needed at a cost of \$210.0 annually. Travel: \$10.0 annually for each position to license and recertify providers. Years one through five \$10.0 annually and year six \$20.0 annually.

Services: Office space, phone, reimbursable service agreements for position support: \$10.0 annually for each position. Years one through five \$14.0 annually and year six \$28.0 annually.

Commodities: Office Supplies \$1.0 annually for each position. Years one through five \$1.0 annually and year six \$2.0 annually.

One-Time Commodities Cost: \$3.0 in the first year and \$3.0 in year six with the addition of one more position.

### Fiscal Note 2

	FY2024 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2024 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
Personal Services			119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1
Travel			2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Services			14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
Commodities			3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>138.4</b>

The division's provider certification and compliance unit would require one additional permanent full-time Health Program Manager 2, Range 19, in Anchorage, to manage the work of certifying and monitoring these providers for compliance with service rules and requirements.

Cost for a Health Program Manager 2, Range 19, would be \$119.1 with a 50% Federal/50% General Fund Match. Annual position costs include: Travel: \$2.3; Services: \$14.0; Commodities: \$3.0. This position would be hired to begin July 1, 2024.

### ASK

**Please support the passage of the HB 58 or SB 57, Adult Home Care Services**