

From: [Ken Alper](#)
To: [Doniece Gott](#)
Subject: FW: SB 181-Wednesday Hearing
Date: Tuesday, April 02, 2024 9:04:14 AM

support

Ken Alper

Senate Finance Committee Aide
Office of Sen. Donny Olson
465-8163

From: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:43 AM
To: Ken Alper <Ken.Alper@akleg.gov>
Subject: FW: SB 181-Wednesday Hearing

From: Andrea Boeshart <akboeshart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:14 PM
To: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 181-Wednesday Hearing

Good Afternoon, Senator Olson.

I am writing to you as a former, Alaska-licensed foster parent, concerning SB 181, a bill the Senate Finance Committee will be considering this Wednesday.

It was our family's absolute joy to serve our state's most vulnerable citizens, pouring our time, resources, and love into the children that came into our home, as well as their families. Our last case broke us, though, and, even a year and a half later, we are holding much loss, grief, and an overwhelming frustration with the sheer brokenness of our child welfare system and the trauma that it inflicts on the very children it is tasked with protecting.

We ultimately decided to close our license this last September, joining so many others in saying "no more" to the system. In fact, Alaska experienced a NET 31% drop in their general (non-child-specific/non-kinship) homes from 2019-2023. Today we have only 660 of these homes. [OCS Statistics Page](#)

Despite the foster family voice being, arguably, one of the most informed as to the well-being of the children in their home, family, and care, it is often one of the most marginalized throughout the life of a case, easily overlooked, and often bearing little to no weight. To invest so much of our family into these precious children, but then to have to stand aside, voiceless, as harmful decisions are made concerning them, is egregious and hardly sustainable.

And so, I ask that, given there will be no time for public testimony during Wednesday's hearing, you take a moment to listen to the individuals that called in during a previous hearing on SB 181, affirming their value to these children, their cases, and the system.

Gavel Alaska Link: [SB 181 Public Testimony](#)

I firmly support the passing of SB 181. It is well researched and focused on allowing for and encouraging the most protective outcomes for children in state care. I hope that, after listening to both the invited testimony and previous public testimony, you will arrive at the same conclusion.

Most Sincerely,
Andrea Boeshart

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Andrea Boeshart
Chair
Foster the Future Alaska



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