

3/21/2023

Alaska House Committee on Health and Social Services
Attn: Chairman Rep. Mike Prax
State Capitol Room 106
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Testimony in support for Commissioner-Designee Kim Kovol's confirmation

Chairman Prax, Vice Chairman Ruffridge, members of the Committee, my name is Chris Kolerok. I have the joy of being employed as Director of Public Policy with Cook Inlet Housing Authority, the Tribally Designated Housing Entity for the Cook Inlet Region of Southcentral Alaska. I also volunteer my time on the boards of the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness and the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. I am voicing my support for Commissioner-designee Kim Kovol's confirmation as Commissioner of Family and Community Services.

Ms. Kovol's supporters are likely to write at length of her qualifications, of which she has amassed in both the private and non-profit sectors. I could write of her qualification through her education, or her existing work history for Alaskans in Governor Dunleavy's administration.

Instead, I write of Ms. Kovol's dedication. We can see that dedication in the choice of her employment: starting over a decade ago Ms. Kovol forsook higher salaries to instead serve people whose lives were measured not in sales but in completed high school diplomas, not in bonuses but in safe hours after school, and certainly not in corporate salaries but in hungry mouths fed. Her dedication is seen in the long hours required of anyone serving the public, double so for those in social services. To balance public service and completing a Master's degree in Social Work, not an MBA or MS Org, speaks to her dedication and an indefatigable nature necessary for this posting.

Our politics are not always aligned, but our humanity is never out of tune. I pray peace in your hearts for this, a quick confirmation.

Thank You
Chris Kolerok, Director of Public Policy
Cook Inlet Housing Authority