



CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT #2

OFFERED ON THE HOUSE FLOOR
TO HCS CSSB 75(FIN)

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARA

DEPARTMENT: Health and Human Services
APPROPRIATION: Office of Children's Services
ALLOCATION: Education & Training Voucher and Presidential Tuition
Wavers; Preparation for Adult Living (PAL); Transitional
Housing Assistance

ADD: \$1,090,000, GF, 1004

DEPARTMENT: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
APPROPRIATION: Grants to Municipalities
ALLOCATION: Port of Anchorage Expansion

DELETE: \$1,090,000, GF, 1004

EXPLANATION:

Education & Training Voucher and Presidential Tuition Wavers: The state offers up to \$5,000 to youth to obtain job training through the ETV program. While 150 youth qualify, the state only provides \$115,000 in funding, to cover a small portion of this demand. An additional \$700,000 would allow all youth who qualify to obtain these job training and education benefits. OCS funds, with private and state grants, 10 university tuition scholarships. If we added an additional 20 scholarships for \$5,500 in tuition and fees, OCS could advertise their availability, and encourage more youth to set college as a goal. That would cost \$110,000. With this \$110,000 increment, we can find out how many youth will seek college education knowing that aid is available. Currently foster youth know only 10 scholarships are available, and that is a disincentive for many to pursue college education.

Preparation for Adult Living (PAL): This training effort offers youth life skills for when they leave foster care. It is currently not being offered to youth outside of Anchorage. To add 80 youth/year in Bethel, Barrow, Ketchikan, Kenai, Juneau and Fairbanks, OCS states it would need an additional \$80,000.

Transitional Housing Assistance: Many youth coming out of foster care cannot afford rent. Currently OCS offers partial rental help for roughly 3 months to youth. Roughly 200 youth come out of care every year. An additional \$200,000 would allow OCS to offer 100 youth up to \$2,000 in additional rental help. Assuming \$500 in help per month, that would allow youth to receive help for another 4 months as they transition out of foster care.