

SCR

2

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER:

3/20/87

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE _____

Mr. President:

FINANCE Committee considered SCR 2

Establishing a Children's Law Task Force.

and recommended:

replace with CS FOR _____) same title
 or adopt _____ CS FOR _____) new title

attached amendment(s) and

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

letter of intent adopted _____

Committee attached or adopted fiscal note(s)

new updated or previous

zero fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup Attached

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER:

FINANCE

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE _____

Mr. President:

JUDICIARY Committee considered SCR 2

Establishing a Children's Law Task Force.

and recommended:

replace with _____ CS FOR _____) same title
 or adopt _____ CS FOR _____) new title

attached amendment(s) and

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

letter of intent adopted _____

Committee attached or adopted fiscal note(s)

new updated or previous

zero fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Bill Kober
Kirk H. Halperin

Bill Kober *No Recommendation*
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup Attached

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

Date of waived 2/27/87 5-DAY NOTICE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIFORM RULE 23

FURTHER: JUDICIARY
FINANCE

**FISCAL NOTE(S) ATTACHED 4 **
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AS 24.08.035
(see below)

1/22/87

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 2/4/85

Mr. President:

HESS

Committee considered SCR 2

Establishing a Children's Law Task Force.

and recommended:

[] replace with CS _____ [] same title
[] attached amendment(s) and [] new title

[X] do pass

[] do not pass

[] no recommendation

[] individual recommendations

[] further referral to _____

[] letter of intent adopted and attached

** Committee [X] attached or [] adopted fiscal note(s)
3 [X] zero / [X] fiscal impact and 3 yrs

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Kurtz sent to pd.
Rich Hayward
Lloyd Jones
Joe Josephson

Carla Frick De Pau
Chairman signature and recommendation

[] Committee Backup Attached

Introduced: 1/22/87
Referred: Health, Education and Social
Services, Judiciary and
Finance

5-0390B

1 IN THE SENATE

BY UEHLING, FAIKS,
HALFORD AND JOSEPHSON

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Establishing a Children's Law Task
6 Force.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS numerous Alaska statutes and regulations pertain to issues
9 involving children, such as adoption, foster homes, child custody, child
10 support, age of majority for alcohol consumption, driving, and consent to
11 sexual activities, child abuse, runaways, health and education
12 requirements, delinquency, drugs, and child labor; and

13 WHEREAS many Alaska parents and others involved with children have
14 expressed concerns that Alaska laws, and the agencies that administer them,
15 have failed to deal adequately with many of the problems that face children
16 and parents in today's complex society; and

17 WHEREAS a comprehensive review of statutes and regulations relating to
18 children, and their implementation, by persons knowledgeable about
19 children's and family issues is needed in order to determine how the state
20 may more effectively deal with problems relating to children and help
21 create an environment in the state that fosters the development of children
22 into responsible, healthy, and productive citizens;

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that a Children's Law
24 Task Force is established to study Alaska statutes and regulations relating
25 to children and the problems of implementing those statutes and regula-
26 tions, and to recommend to the legislature any changes to the statutes
27 appropriate and necessary for improving the condition of children in the
28 state and the administration of laws relating to children; and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that the persons who chair the Senate and House
S

1 Judiciary Committees and Health and Social Services Committees shall be
2 members of the task force, and that the presiding officers of the Senate
3 and House shall jointly appoint as members of the task force an appropriate
4 number of persons who are involved with children and children's issues,
5 such as teachers, social workers, child services providers, attorneys and
6 other child advocates, judges, correction and probation officers, physi-
7 cians, family counselors, parents, and interested members of the public;
8 and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms of task force members shall begin on
10 July 1, 1987, and that the task force shall expire on January 10, 1989; and
11 be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a report of its
13 findings and proposed legislation to the legislature by January 10, 1989;
14 and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the administrative and legal services of the
16 Legislative Affairs Agency shall be made available to the task force, and
17 that the task force may hire one staff person.
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**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: SCR 2
Publish Date: 3-5-87

Revision Date: _____
Title: Establishing a Children's Law
Task Force
Sponsor: Senator Uehling
Requestor: Senate HESS

Agency Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: Legislative Council
Leadership
Components: Session Expenses
Legislative Leadership

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL	-0-	23.7	11.9	-0-	-0-	-0-
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	23.7	11.9	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	23.7	11.9	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS :

No additional funding is requested for a staff person being hired by the task force. Funding will be provided by existing funding under Session Expense and Legislative Leadership. However, travel funds for public

Prepared by: Pamela A. Stoops, Manager *Pamela A. Stoops* Phone: 465-3850
Division: Administrative Services Date: 3/2/87

Approved by: Warren W. Endicott, Executive Director *Warren W. Endicott* Date: 3/2/87
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)
Senate Secretary

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. SCR 2

members and other legislative task force members is requested - \$23.7.

4 trips @ 352 x 10 members	=	14,080
3 days per diem (\$80) x		
4 trips x 10 members	=	<u>9,600</u>
		23,680

The expiration date of the task force is in the middle of FY 89 on January 10, 1989. One half of the travel funding is requested for FY 89.

It is assumed that contractual services, supplies and equipment funding for the task force will also be provided by existing funding within Session Expenses and Legislative Leadership components.

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: SCR 2
Publish Date: 3-5-87

Revision Date: _____
Title: "An Act establishing a
children's law task force..."
Sponsor: Uehling, Faiks, et.al.
Requestor: Senate Judiciary

Agency Affected: Administration
BRU: Office of Public Advocacy

Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS :

Prepared by: Brant McGee, Public Advocate
Division: Office of Public Advocacy

Phone: 274-1684
Date: 2/22/87

Approved by Commissioner: Garrey Peska
Agency: Department of Administration

Date: 2/27/87

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: SCR 2
Publish Date: 3-5-87

REQUEST
Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Public Safety
Title: "Establishing a Children's Law Task Force." BRU: Alaska State Troopers
Sponsor: Rep. Uehling Components: Detachments & CIB
Requestor: Senate HESS

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
OPERATING						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS:

No fiscal impact is anticipated.

JMR
3/2/87 Prepared by: Francis C. Allan
Division: Alaska State Troopers

Phone: 269-5691
Date: 2/17/87

Approved by Commissioner: William R. Nix *W. Nix*
Agency: Public Safety
Distribution (by preparer):

Date: 3/2/87

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: SCR No. 2
Publish Date: 3-5-87

Revision Date: _____
Title: A Resolution Establishing a
Children's Law Task Force.
Sponsor: Uehling, et al.
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: Social Services
Youth Services
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS :

Legislative staff have indicated that travel funds will be provided by the Legislature for task force participants as necessary.

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director *ymc* Phone: 465-3170
Division: Division of Family and Youth Services Date: 2/27/87

Approved by Commissioner: Kara M. Munson, Commissioner *KMB* Date: 3/2/87
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

3 φ 15 N 1 Fiscal attached

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

.15th. Legislature .1st... Session

SENATE CONCURRENT R.NO. 2.....

By UEHLING... FAIKS... HALFORD... JOSEPHSON

Establishing a Children's Law Task Force.

Introduced in the Senate .1/22..., 19.87.

HISTORY IN THE SENATE

19 87	Read first time and referred to Committee on HESS, JUDICIARY & FINANCE										
1 22											
3 5	Reported back with recommendation that <i>HESS to Judiciary / impact & 3 zero fiscal</i>										
3 20	<i>Jud: 2 do pass, 1 no rec, to finance.</i>										
	Read second time and										
	Read third time and										
	<table border="0"> <tr><td>PASS</td><td>Effective Date</td></tr> <tr><td>Yeas</td><td>Yeas</td></tr> <tr><td>Nays</td><td>Nays</td></tr> <tr><td>Absent</td><td>Absent</td></tr> <tr><td>Excused</td><td>Excused</td></tr> </table>	PASS	Effective Date	Yeas	Yeas	Nays	Nays	Absent	Absent	Excused	Excused
PASS	Effective Date										
Yeas	Yeas										
Nays	Nays										
Absent	Absent										
Excused	Excused										
	Reconsideration										
	<table border="0"> <tr><td>PASS</td><td>Effective Date</td></tr> <tr><td>Yeas</td><td>Yeas</td></tr> <tr><td>Nays</td><td>Nays</td></tr> <tr><td>Absent</td><td>Absent</td></tr> <tr><td>Excused</td><td>Excused</td></tr> </table>	PASS	Effective Date	Yeas	Yeas	Nays	Nays	Absent	Absent	Excused	Excused
PASS	Effective Date										
Yeas	Yeas										
Nays	Nays										
Absent	Absent										
Excused	Excused										
	Reported correctly engrossed Signed by President Sent to House										
	SECRETARY OF THE SENATE										

HISTORY IN THE HOUSE

19	Read first time and referred to Committee on										
	Reported back with recommendation that										
	Read second time and										
	Read third time and										
	<table border="0"> <tr><td>PASS</td><td>Effective Date</td></tr> <tr><td>Yeas</td><td>Yeas</td></tr> <tr><td>Nays</td><td>Nays</td></tr> <tr><td>Absent</td><td>Absent</td></tr> <tr><td>Excused</td><td>Excused</td></tr> </table>	PASS	Effective Date	Yeas	Yeas	Nays	Nays	Absent	Absent	Excused	Excused
PASS	Effective Date										
Yeas	Yeas										
Nays	Nays										
Absent	Absent										
Excused	Excused										
	Reconsideration										
	<table border="0"> <tr><td>PASS</td><td>Effective Date</td></tr> <tr><td>Yeas</td><td>Yeas</td></tr> <tr><td>Nays</td><td>Nays</td></tr> <tr><td>Absent</td><td>Absent</td></tr> <tr><td>Excused</td><td>Excused</td></tr> </table>	PASS	Effective Date	Yeas	Yeas	Nays	Nays	Absent	Absent	Excused	Excused
PASS	Effective Date										
Yeas	Yeas										
Nays	Nays										
Absent	Absent										
Excused	Excused										
	Reported correctly engrossed Signed by Speaker Returned to Senate										
	CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE										

HISTORY IN THE SENATE

19	Received from House
	To enrolling
	Reported correctly enrolled
	Sent to Governor
 by Governor
	Filed with Lt. Governor
	Chapter No.

Updated 1988
Fiscal Notes.

Attach to resolution
when R/O

5 Feb 27/88

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Establishing a Children's
Law Task Force
Sponsor: Uehling, Faiks, et. al.
Requestor: HESS, Judiciary, Finance

Agency Affected: Administration
BRU: Office of Public Advocacy

Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Brant McGee, Public Advocate *ASO* Phone: 274-1684
Division: Office of Public Advocacy Date: 1/20/88

Approved by Commissioner: John Andrews Date: 1/27/88
Agency: Department of Administration

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

RECEIVED
FEB 1 1988

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST

Revision Date: _____
Title: "Establishing a Children's Law Task Force."
Sponsor: Sen. Uehling
Requestor: Senate HESS

Agency Affected: Public Safety
BRU: Alaska State Troopers
Components: Criminal Investigation Bureau

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY88	FY89	FY90	FY91	FY92	FY93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUNDS						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact is anticipated.

Prepared by: Francis C. Allan *G.C.A.*
Division: Alaska State Troopers

Phone: 269-5691
Date: 2/12/88

Approved by Commissioner: Arthur English
Agency: Public Safety

Date: 2/12/88

Distribution: (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

RECEIVED
FEB 13 1988

11/13

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: SCR 2
Publish Date: _____

Revision Date: _____
Title: "An Act establishing a children's law task force..."
Sponsor: Hehling, Faiks, et.al.
Requestor: Senate Judiciary

Agency Affected: Administration
BRU: Office of Public Advocacy
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Brant McGee, Public Advocate Phone: 274-1684
Division: Office of Public Advocacy Date: 2/22/87

Approved by Commissioner: Garrey Peska Date: 2/22/87
Agency: Department of Administration

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)
Senate Secretary

RECEIVED
MAR 02 1987


LEGISLATIVE FINANCE

POSITION PAPER
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2
"An Act Establishing a
Children's Law Task Force"

This concurrent resolution would mandate the creation of a Children's Law Task Force composed of agency representatives as well as public members to study current Alaska Statutes and agency operations in order to make reform recommendations.

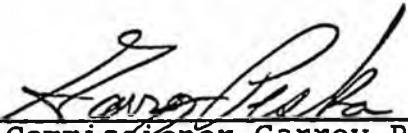
The resolution would have no immediate impact on Office of Public Advocacy or its programs.

The Office of Public Advocacy supports House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 because it would create a needed forum in which a comprehensive study of laws affecting children and agencies' implementation of such laws could be conducted.



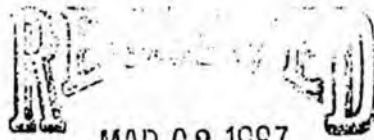
Brant McGee, Public Advocate
Office of Public Advocacy

2/22/87
Date



Commissioner Garrey Peska
Department of Administration

2/27/87
Date


MAR 02 1987

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE

POSITION PAPER

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

"For a Resolution establishing a Children's Law Task Force."

This Resolution would establish a task force to study Alaska statutes and regulations relating to children and the problems of implementing those statutes and regulations. The task force is charged with making recommendations to the Legislature on any changes to the statutes appropriate and necessary to improving the condition of children in the state.

The Department supports the concept of establishing a task force to study the circumstances of Alaska's children. Periodic review and evaluation of statutes, regulations, and programs implementing the laws are useful in assessing the effectiveness of policy directions and administrative efforts. A similar task force was an effective mechanism in accomplishing major revisions to the Alaska's Children's Code, which occurred in 1977.

However, comprehensive and practical evaluations of statutory and administrative effectiveness must include a review of the needs or issues being addressed and the adequacy of resources devoted to implementing the policies embodied in the laws. For this reason, the Commissioners of the Departments of Community and Regional Affairs, Education, and Health and Social Services urged the Governor to appoint a task force that would "undertake a comprehensive analysis of the state of children and youth in Alaska" (emphasis added; see the attached memorandum, dated March 2, 1987, to Governor Cowper).

The Governor concurred in this suggestion and, on March 6, 1987, announced the establishment of the Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth (GICCY).

One of the charges to the GICCY is to "review those state and municipal laws and regulations relating to children and recommend appropriate changes where the conflicts between existing laws force inequitable treatment or lack of accountability." This charge is very similar to that contained in the Children's Law Task Force, proposed by SCR 2. However, it is important to keep such reforms in the context of all delivery systems and programs by and through which we serve -- or do not serve -- children and youth.

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1987

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE

Position Paper
SCR 2 - Page 2

Because the GICCY has been created, and in order to avoid a fractured approach to the wide range of important issues involving children and youth, the Department prefers the Governor's more holistic approach to addressing children's issues, which will include a necessary review of children's laws.

RECOMMENDED BY: *Yvonne M. Chase*
Yvonne M. Chase, Director
Division of Family and
Youth Services

DATE: March 19, 1987

APPROVED BY: *Myra N. Munson*
Myra N. Munson
Commissioner

DATE: March 19, 1987

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: **The Honorable Steve Cowper
Governor
State of Alaska**

DATE: **March 2, 1987**

FILE NO:

465-4700 (DC&RA)

TELEPHONE NO:

465-2800 (DOE)

465-3030 (DH&SS)

THRU:

SUBJECT:

**Creation of the
Governor's Task
Force on Children
and Youth**

FROM:

David G. Hoffman
**David G. Hoffman, Commissioner
Department of Community and Regional Affairs**

Marshall L. Lind
**Marshall L. Lind, Commissioner
Department of Education**

Myra M. Munson
**Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services**

We are writing to propose the establishment of a task force whose purpose would be to recommend a first class child care system and undertake a comprehensive analysis of the state of children and youth in Alaska.

We are struck by the considerable interest in children that we currently see reflected in both the public and private sectors of our State. We urge the creation of this statewide task force now, in order to capture this broad based interest. The appointment of this task force is timely because:

- the economics of child care is a key component to building a strong Alaska, because, as you have pointed out, "there are social and economic problems which can be directly attributed to a lack of adequate, quality child care in the State."
- a number of bills before the Legislature right now are specifically related to children and youth, including two resolutions pending in both houses regarding the formation of a "Children's Law Task Force" that would review the myriad statutes and regulations pertaining to issues involving children;
- members of the House Committee on Health, Education and Social Services (HESS), together with Representative Peter Goll, recently held a well-attended meeting regarding "gaps and overlaps" in the State's human services delivery system;

- ° beginning this week, the House HESS Committee will spend an entire week focused on Services for Children and Youth in Alaska, taking testimony from the staff of four departments and many private, non-profit human services provider agencies;
- ° an increasing number of parents, educators, health care and social service providers, and policy makers have become demonstrably concerned about early childhood health and education issues, because of the crucial importance of these early years and the favorable long-term outcomes of investing in high quality early childhood programs;
- ° other groups of parents, educators, human services providers, and policy makers are focused on issues surrounding the large number of children and youth on the run in Alaska;
- ° many parents, private agencies, and others involved with children have expressed concern that Alaska's statutes and regulations regarding children, and the State agencies that administer those laws and regulations, have failed to deal adequately with many of the problems that face children and parents in today's complex society; and
- ° finally, of course, there are many very real, abiding budget issues being raised almost hour by hour, issues which serve only to further arouse justifiable concerns over the ability of the State to meet even basic nurturing and protective services for its most vulnerable citizens.

Although these diverse issues and interest groups certainly speak to some of the more critical children's concerns, they do little to help us channel our talents and energies towards a comprehensive analysis of the array of problems related to the care and education of our children and youth. Additionally, the splintering that too often results from this undirected concern can ultimately be detrimental to the best interests of children. We do not find this to be the best environment in which to forge good, objective public policy regarding the true needs of our children and youth.

The formation of a statewide task force, however, would serve as a vehicle to focus on the current status of children and youth (ages 0-18) in Alaska. This group will

- *develop a plan for a first class child care system;
- *provide a forum to address much needed statutory and regulatory reforms;
- *pay special attention to the health and appropriate educational needs of our young children;
- *address the problems of our delinquents and runaways;
- *conduct a children's "census;" and
- *address the gaps and overlaps in programs serving our children.

More importantly, however, this group will keep all these issues in context, because it will look at all these issues together, not separately: a holistic view, if you will, of the state of our children and youth, and the systems and programs by and through which we serve -- or do not serve -- them.

Attached to this memorandum is the formal proposal for you to consider. We believe the charge to this working group (tentatively called the "Governor's Task Force on Children and Youth") should be specific; it's lifetime should be relatively short: portions of its work must be accomplished between now and January of next year, the rest by January of 1989. We believe that the task force must be representative of interest groups from early childhood through adolescence, but it should not be too large a group; we believe it must be "blue ribbon," in order to garner the support and credibility necessary to make its processes consensual and its work product practical.

Because children are powerless, children need powerful friends. The question must be asked: has Alaska kept its best and brightest resource -- its children and youth -- at the top of its priorities? We ask you, as the Chief Executive of this State, to affirm your commitment to children by announcing the formation of the task force.

Attachment

A PROPOSAL FOR
A GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

GOAL

The goal of the Governor's Task Force on Children and Youth is to place children and youth higher on the public policy agenda of the State of Alaska and to ensure a high-quality, responsive, accessible system for all children, youth, and families in Alaska.

A LIST OF POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES
OF THE TASK FORCE

- 1) To produce a comprehensive plan for child care and a coherent State policy for children and youth.
- 2) To determine what the State of Alaska believes are the basic needs of children and youth.
- 3) To produce an accurate, detailed inventory of all services and programs provided to children and youth in this State. The inventory should identify all existing State, municipal, non-profit, corporate, religious, and private programs and services for our children and youth.
- 4) To collect all available statistics from the various public and private providers of children's services, in order to assess the physical and emotional health of our children and their financial well-being. In addition, to report on trends in such areas as the growth in the number of "latchkey" children, the costs of raising a child, the cost of poverty, etc.
- 5) To conduct, after an analysis of the data gathered, a detailed and information-specific census of Alaskan children (ages 0 - 18) for use in evaluating the adequacy of public and private services.
- 6) To analyze and make recommendations concerning the status of both public and private interagency cooperation and coordination in Alaska; further, to focus on the role these agencies should play in the unified delivery of services to our children.
- 7) To review those State and municipal laws and regulations relating to children and recommend appropriate changes where the conflicts between existing laws force inequitable treatment or lack of accountability.
- 8) To consider the State as a model employer for working families.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

The task force should be broadly composed to represent legislators, child care professionals, educators, health professionals, parents, business and labor leaders, clergy, and the Departments of Community and Regional Affairs, Education, Health and Social Services, and Public Safety. The Task Force should have no more than 15 members.

BUDGET

We believe that support for this effort must come from both the public and private sectors. Clearly, the State departments are willing to bear their expenses in support of the task force. We suggest that one of the group's first tasks must be to seek funding of its efforts. We believe funding is necessary for 1) travel expenses, including hearings in urban and rural Alaska; 2) contractual services for data collection, audio conferencing, assistance in conducting the census, and facilitating the workings of the task force itself; and 3) publication of the findings and recommendations of the task force.

To assist the task force in its work, the Alaska Department of Education has received a two-year, \$125,000 technical (i.e., non-cash) assistance grant from the National Association of State Boards of Education.

TIMELINE

The objectives of this task force are critical. We need much of the information to be collected and analyzed before being ready to go forward in developing coherent policy. The charge of this task force has both short and long term goals. A portion of the task force's work should be accomplished by January 1, 1988, particularly the data collection and analysis, the census, a review of pertinent laws and regulations, and a plan for a child care system. Recognizing that other portions of the task, however, will require more time, research, and deliberation, we recommend that it fully complete its tasks no later than January 1, 1989.