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STATE OF ALASKA
DEPT. OF COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

April 19, 1991

POSITION PAPER

RE: CS for HB 253

SPONSORS: Representatives Ellis, C. Davis, Gruenberg, Koponen
and Ulmer

Program Effects of Bill

In April 1990 the state implemented the new federal Family Support Act (FSA) program. Prior to the programs implementation a Legislative Task Force set forth recommendations for specific areas of concern. One of these areas was the federal requirement that FSA participants be allowed to select the caregiver of their choice if the caregiver was legally conducting business under state law and regulations. Child care providers are legally exempt from licensing if caring for under four children within this state. The major concern was that there would be no agency monitoring of these caregivers and that state and federal funding would be paying for this care on behalf of eligible parents. There was some concern for state liability and the quality of care which might be provided for the child. Additionally, many non-subsidized parents use legally exempt care and the same concern is felt for these parents by professionals within the child care community.

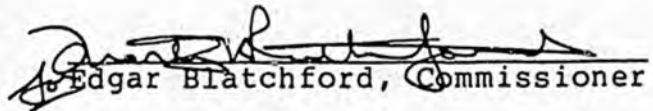
The state has an education and training grant fund which provides training for licensed providers within the state that are participating in the Day Care Assistance Program. Currently the fund is unable to provide training for every eligible participant and training is limited. CSSB 171 revises the statute to expand the eligible population to include child care providers and preschools who are legally exempt within the state from state or municipal licensing requirements. This population is estimated to be approximately 250% greater than our current eligible participants.

Additionally, any interested person may attend, but we believe this group will have negligible impact. We strongly support the concept of this bill and the fact that it acknowledges the need to train all caregivers, parents and other interested persons equally. Unless funding is adequate to provide the additional training necessary to fund these new eligible participants, the bill ensures that preference will be given to licensed facilities and those in areas that are historically hard to serve.

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April 19, 1991
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Additionally, if we are successful in our attempts to fulfill the provisions of AS 44.47.305(d) (3) which mandates our encouraging unlicensed programs to seek licensure, we will impact the Department of Health & Social Services' already limited licensing resources.


Edgar Blatchford, Commissioner

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WHILE IN SESSION
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ALASKA STATE HOUSE



CHAIR
RULES COMMITTEE

JUDICIARY


SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
TRADE & TOURISM

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNY ELLIS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representatives Georgianna Lincoln & Pat Carney, co-chairs
House Health, Education and Social Services

FROM: Rep. Johnny Ellis 

RE: CSHB 253

DATE: April 25, 1991

Thank you for scheduling CSHB 253. This bill mandates that all future grants given to licensed day care centers and homes — to provide for mandatory training of providers — must be open to the public. They must also have a public awareness campaign to give parents and unlicensed day care center employees the option to participate.

LICENSED V. UNLICENSED DAY CARE

The State of Alaska now requires day care homes and centers to be licensed if providing services to more than four children. Licensed day care homes and centers have benefits provided by the state, in order to offer an incentive to day care providers to become licensed and thus provide high quality day care. Licensed day care providers can receive grants from the state and can also receive free child care training for their child care providers, and they must have at least one space available for children in the Day Care Assistance program. Licensed day care centers are also subject to health, fire and safety inspections from the Department of Health and Social Services. Unlicensed day care is unregulated.

CHILD CARE GRANTS

Child care grants are administered through the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. Licensed child care providers can receive \$25-per-month-per-child, or one-half the subsidy allowed by the Alaska statute for child care grants.

SOME UNLICENSED DAY CARE CENTERS DANGEROUS

Recently in Anchorage, an illegal unlicensed day care center was found grossly lacking in adequate services to children. This cannot continue.

TRAINED DAY CARE PROVIDERS ARE IMPORTANT

CSHB 253 will add \$205,000 to the education and training grant fund to open up training for more day care providers. All licensed day care homes and centers — which will work through a resource referral agency — will be mandated by this legislation to provide a public training seminar and publicize the training so that unlicensed care givers and parents will have an opportunity to get involved.

Adolescent Pregnancy Bills
Sectional Analysis
CSHB 253 Training for Child Care

Section 1. Amends current AS 44.47.305(d) to expand who qualifies to receive training services from the education and training program relating to child care and the operation of child care facilities. This amendment will allow legally exempt (unlicensed) child care employees, volunteers and others to participate in training.

When awarding grants, preference shall be given to areas where training opportunities have been unavailable or limited when compared to other areas of the state.

Trainers must be qualified, as approved by the department when awarding a grant. The grants will be given on condition of the following:

1. Allow participation in class by all interested persons, with preference for licensed day care providers when training opportunities are limited by space available or other factors.
2. Publicize the class in a cost-effective manner, so legally exempt child care providers will be aware of the opportunity.
3. Encourage unlicensed day care providers to become licensed, as part of the class.

Sectional Analysis

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ALASKA STATE HOUSE



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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
TRADE & TOURISM

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNY ELLIS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representatives Georgianna Lincoln and Pat Carney, co-chairs
House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Rep. Johnny Ellis, Chair
House Rules Committee

RE: Scheduling Adolescent Parent and Teen Pregnancy bills

DATE: April 26, 1991

Thank you for scheduling House Bills 253, 254 and 255, as well as House Concurrent Resolution 24 for a hearing before your committee. I am presenting these as a package from the 1990 Alaska Adolescent Parent and Teen Pregnancy Task Force. As Co-Chair of the Task Force, I studied the complex problem of adolescent pregnancy in Alaska and looked for ways to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy and its social and economic effects. Representative Cheri Davis was a member of the task force and is the sponsor of three additional bills which will come to your committee. The amount of teen pregnancies in Alaska is troubling:

Three teens give birth to babies every day in Alaska.

Alaska was ranked 7th in the nation for the percent of teen pregnancies per capita.

Below is a summary of the legislation.

- HCR 24** A resolution requesting the University of Alaska to compile information relating to adolescent pregnancy and parenthood and its social and economic effects.
- HB 253** Expands the education and training program to open up the current training for employees of licensed day care centers, to include employees of unlicensed day care centers as well as parents.
- HB 254** Requires the Dept. of Health & Social Services to provide for case management for adolescent parents and pregnant adolescents who are not eligible for similar services under Medicaid.
- HB 255** Requires the Dept. of Health & Social Services to provide support to encourage school districts and municipalities to implement peer counseling groups.

I hope you will share in my support for this legislation.



Adolescent Pregnancy Bills By Rep. Johnny Ellis

Last year, Senator Drue Pearce and Rep. Johnny Ellis were Co-Chairs of Alaska's Adolescent Parent and Teen Pregnancy Task Force. Together they studied the complex problem of adolescent pregnancy in Alaska and looked for ways to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy and its social and economic effects. The statistics of teen pregnancy are startling.

Three teens give birth to babies every day in Alaska.

Alaska was ranked 7th in the nation for the percent of teen pregnancies per capita.

The members of the task force recognize that the situation of teen pregnancy is neither new nor unique to Alaska, and that solutions are not readily available. We also recognize that family and cultural values are important and should be preserved to the greatest extent possible.

When one considers that federal, state, and local governments pay more than \$51 million dollars a year to support needy families of Alaska mothers who had children when they were teenagers, the cost of implementing the legislation recommended by the task force seems miniscule in comparison.

House & Senate Companion Legislation

SB 169 = HB 257 by Ellis • Case Management services

SB 170 = HB 243 By C. Davis • Teen Pregnancy Prevention

SB 171 = HB 255 by Ellis • Training for Child Care Workers

SB 172 = HB 255 by Ellis • Peer Counseling Program/Teen Health

SB 173 = HB 241 by C. Davis • Grants to schools for day care

SB 174 • (no companion) State Aid for School Health Clinics

SB 175 = HB 242 by C. Davis • Teen Health Care Services

SB 176 = HB 7 by Boyer • Public School Health & Safety Education

SCR 15 = HCR 24 by Ellis • Research Reports on Teen Pregnancy

SCR 16 (no companion) • Teen focus by children/youth commission

House Bills sponsored by Reps. Ellis, Boyer, C. Davis

All Senate Bills sponsored by Sen. Pearce



HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: April 26, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 5-6-91

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HB 253

HOUSE BILL NO. 253

TRAINING OF CHILD CARE WORKERS

"An Act relating to training for child care workers."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with _____

CS HB 253 (HES)

the same title

a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) _____

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) _____

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) DCRA 4/19/91

zero fiscal note _____

zero fiscal note(s) _____

| SIGNING <u>DO PASS</u> | DP | OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS | DNP | NR | AM |
|------------------------|----|----------------------------|-----|----|------------|
| <i>Cheri Davis</i> | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>(CARNEY)</i> | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>Betty Davis</i> | ✓ | <i>J. G. Sample</i> | | ✓ | (GONZALES) |
| | | <i>Mark Hanley</i> | | ✓ | (HANLEY) |
| | | <i>Mary Miller</i> | | X | |
| | | <i>Josephine [unclear]</i> | | ✓ | (LINCOLN) |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

[Signature]
CO-CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CS HB 253

Revision Date: _____ Department Affected: Community & Regional Affairs
 Title: "An Act relating to training for chile dare." BRU: Child Assistance

Sponsor: Reps Ellis, C.Davis, etc

Component: Child Care

Requestor: _____

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| | 6 | 5 | 8 |
|--|---|---|---|

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING | FY 92 | FY 93 | FY 94 | FY 95 | FY 96 | FY 97 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES | | | | | | |
| TRAVEL | | | | | | |
| CONTRACTUAL | | | | | | |
| SUPPLIES | | | | | | |
| EQUIPMENT | | | | | | |
| LAND & STRUCTURES | | | | | | |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS | 205. | 225. | 248. | 248. | 248. | 248. |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 205. | 225. | 248. | 248. | 248. | 248. |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| REVENUE | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 205. | 225. | 248. | 248. | 248. | 248. |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | | | | | | |
| OTHER | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 205. | 225. | 248. | 248. | 248. | 248. |

POSITIONS:

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FULL-TIME | | | | | | |
| PART-TIME | | | | | | |
| TEMPORARY | | | | | | |

Estimate of current year impact: 205.

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

See attached

Prepared By: *Demond Henderson*, Director Phone: 465-4708

Division: Administrative Services Date: 4/19/91

Approved by Commissioner: *Edgar Batchford*

Agency: Community & Regional Affairs Date: 4/19/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

FN 205.0 CRA

We estimate there are at least 800 legally exempt day care homes statewide and that approximately 50 percent would elect to participate in the program. There are currently 280 Department of Education certified preschools whose staff would be eligible and we estimate approximately 75 percent would elect to participate. This equates to approximately 1,243 staff who should receive, at a minimum, 10 hours of training per year. Cost of training is approximately \$16.50 per hour per person. Future increases are estimated based on increased demand (current program status).

7-LS1145P
Lauterbach
4/30/91

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 253 ()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES ELLIS, C.Davis, Gruenberg, Koponen, Ulmer

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to training for child care; and providing for an effective date."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 * Section 1. AS 44.47.305(d) is amended to read:

4 (d) In addition to the grants provided in (a) of this section, the department may, subject
5 to appropriations for that purpose, provide by grant or contract for [THE] education and training
6 relating to child care and the operation of child care facilities for [OF] child care employees,
7 volunteers, [OR] administrators, and other interested persons. When awarding grants or
8 contracts under this subsection, the department shall give consideration to grantees or
9 contractors who plan to offer at least one training program that will serve an area where
10 training opportunities funded under this subsection have not been available or have been
11 limited when compared to training opportunities in other areas. To receive a grant or
12 contract [UNDER THIS SUBSECTION OR TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRAINING PROGRAM]
13 under this subsection, the child care facility must meet all the requirements of (b) of this section
14 and provide evidence satisfactory to the department that each person who will be providing

1 the proposed instruction is qualified by education or experience to provide the instruction.
2 A grant agreement or contract under this subsection must provide that the child care
3 facility will

4 (1) allow participation in the class by all interested persons, including persons
5 who operate or work in an unlicensed child care program; however, when training
6 opportunities are limited by space available or other factors, the grantee or contractor may
7 reserve 90 percent of the spaces in the program for persons who work in or operate a
8 licensed child care facility when accepting participants into a training program;

9 (2) publicize the class in a cost-effective manner designed to make its
10 availability known to interested persons, including persons who operate or work in an
11 unlicensed child care program;

12 (3) as part of the class, encourage persons who operate unlicensed child care
13 programs to seek licensure of their programs.

14 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1991.

Dear Alaska State Leader,

"I JUST WANT TO DIE"

"I'M PREGNANT"

"I DON'T HAVE ANYONE ELSE TO TALK TO"

"PLEASE HELP ME"

These are quotes from real people, real youth, in Alaska, this month, really.

When students have problems they often go to talk to their friends first!! A peer needs to know how to listen, who their resources are, and what to do in helping out a friend. This is what Natural Helpers, a peer counseling program, is all about.

I was a Natural Helper in high school and I know that from my involvement alone I have had countless interventions and preventions. Peer helping programs are important to inspire the students and provide them with the capabilities and concepts necessary to (not only) contribute to their community, but lead their peers (and adults alike) to a safe and healthy tomorrow. I wish everyone could be a Natural Helper!

Natural Helpers has positively changed my life. When I entered my first training I was not drug free and I looked favorably to many unhealthy lifestyles and role models. Today instead of thinking of suicide or drinking I think of future adventures, goals and aspirations. Thanks to Natural Helpers. Not only has it changed my life but that of my friends and the people I talk with along the way. In Natural Helpers I have learned how to get my friends help. Natural Helpers did not turn me into a professional counselor or mini psychologist. Natural Helpers gave me the knowledge to become a better informed friend with improved listening and coping skills. Also Natural Helpers taught me about me. Many dynamics come from the Natural Helper program and from being a Natural Helper.

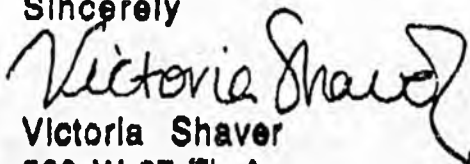
To overcome the drug problems and issues (for example; teen suicide, teen pregnancy, low self esteem, family problems, etc.) that concern young people in this state today we, as students, must be empowered to become part of the solution. The Peer counseling programs do empower us to bring about a positive change!

I am a student who sees this program working. So often I hear "you are the future leaders of tomorrow", but we can and do lead today, we just need training from professional Natural Helper trainers at the Alaska Council on Prevention on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Please support Peer helper programs and youth programs. There are many very good youth programs, for example: A STAND, Teen Trainers, Governor Student Health and Safety Conferences, Debate, Alaska Teen Institute, Anchorage Youth Court and Student Leadership Organizations (for example: student government and DECA), of which I have been involved in high school. I know these programs work because I was part of them. They are all important!!! Peer helping programs are different because they really teach you how to communicate and help a friend who needs you.

It is so totally necessary to keep the Natural Helpers program and expanding the program by passing the HB 255 would be a most excellent move.

As My friend Andy once said, "As individuals we can make choices, but if we stand together we can make a change." Thank you for helping us make a change and thank you for your time.

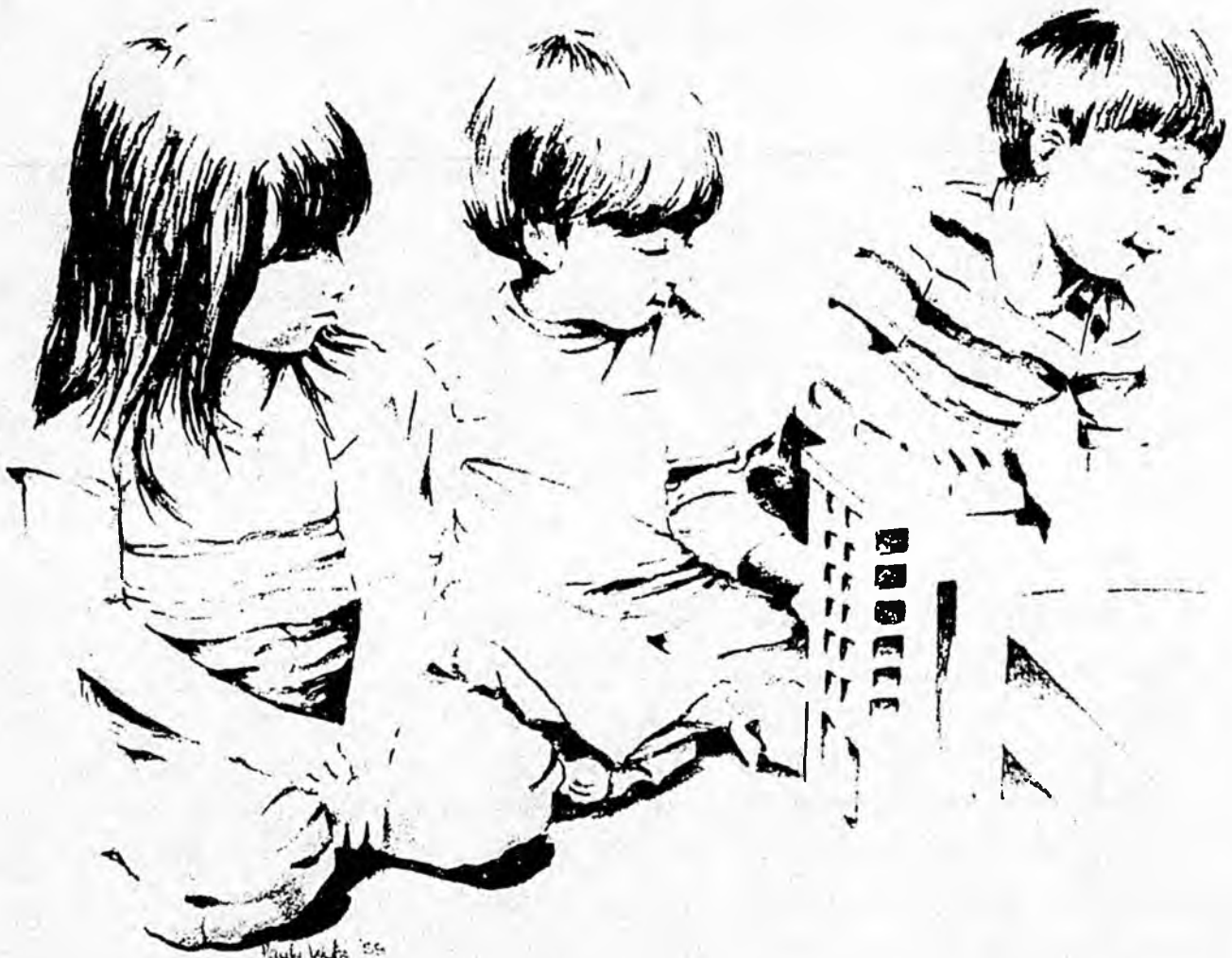
Sincerely



Victoria Shaver
520 W 87 Th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99515
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Our Greatest Natural Resource

Investing in the Future of Alaska's Children



A report of the Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth

1988

GICCY Recommendations

4. PARENT SUPPORT AND TRAINING

Good parenting is both art and science. This skill can be improved through training and mutual support. Programs need to be available to assist parents with day-to-day support and nurturing of their children. Though one of the most important adult functions, parenting is rarely learned except through trial and error. Frequently parents raise their children the way they were raised.

Community agencies, churches, employers, programs and schools can assist parents to do their job if parents, teachers and the people

who work with children understand and cooperate in their roles. The effectiveness of community programs can be enhanced through cooperation in parenting. All parents are under stress at times. Parents can learn to deal more effectively with their emotions and children and thus provide healthier care and avoid abuse and neglect. Parents and child care personnel can help each other care for children if they understand each other and learn to work together. Prevention can avoid costly treatment later.

Parent Support:


50

Child care in Alaska, at home and away, will be considerably improved if additional parenting classes are made more widely available. Teen parents need the support and assistance parenting courses offer. Grade school children can more effectively deal with their young siblings and peers if they understand early child development. Young parents with little previous experience with infants and children can expand their abilities to cope with stress and learn how to help their children develop in healthy and productive ways.

Infants with special needs are most at risk from inadequate or non-existent care. Early help and support for the parents of infants with special needs will save the state significant money in the future as demonstrated by the success of the home-based Infant Learning Program, which identifies infants between birth and age 3 with special needs and infants at risk and provides services in the home.

(Continued on Page 63)

Alaska should adopt and fund a comprehensive parent support and training program. High-risk families should be especially encouraged to attend training programs through financial incentives. Many community organizations such as churches, hospitals, public and private employers and volunteer organizations should be encouraged to offer parenting classes. Model programs and curricula should be available at a low cost.



Help and ideas are offered through group discussions, home visits, parent-child activities, quality early childhood services, lending libraries of books, toys and other learning materials, events for the entire family and special programs for parents of infants, working parents and multiple stress families.

The most successful programs during the period from birth to age 5 have certain basic characteristics, David Hamburg, president of the Carnegie Corporation, told Congress. He testified that they start early, involve parents substantially in the effort for the long term, strengthen natural social support networks, provide educational activities for young children that have a moderately stimulating quality and sustain contact with mothers and children over relatively long periods.

Parent support and education are an important part of a quality child care system in Alaska and are an effective way to strengthen our families. States such as Minnesota, Missouri, Connecticut and Maryland offer such programs.

In Minnesota, for example, the program's primary goals are to support parents in their efforts to raise children, offer child development information and alternative parenting techniques, help create effective communication between parents and children, supplement children's discovery and learning experiences and promote positive parental attitudes throughout a child's school years. This successful program is available to all Minnesotans and shows how such community-based parent training in Alaska can be an important part of strengthening families.

As part of education reform, a number of states have established parenting education and support programs to prevent school failure. The National Governors' Association's recent report, "The First Sixty Months," also focuses on the need for early preventive intervention and highlights programs underway in

19 states, many of which include substantial family involvement. Several states have provided financial incentives for families most in need of support and least able to afford it.

The primacy of the family's role in child development is indisputably one of the most important American values. We in Alaska must support and nurture our families in order to nurture our children. (*See Recommendation 1, page 15.*)

1. Quality: Regulations

Regulation of early childhood programs is a state responsibility, a necessary consumer protection for parents and children. Regulation helps assure children's rights to an acceptable level of care. Regulations help ensure that children are not at risk and are in a safe, healthy environment while their parents work.

In Alaska, general confusion and misunderstanding exist about regulations and which state agency does what. This confusion contributes to incoherent public policy, which has resulted in gaps and overlaps in the regulations and in agency responsibilities.

The Department of Health and Social Services, for example, regulates and licenses child care centers and family child care homes with one set of regulations.

The Municipality of Anchorage uses that set along with its requirements to regulate programs there.

The Department of Education regulates and certifies pre-elementary schools for 3- to 5-year-old children when the programs receive direct state or federal aid and their primary purpose is educational.

The Department of Community and Regional Affairs monitors the Day Care Assistance Program, Head Start, Child Care Grant Program, Education and Training Grant Program, Dependent Care Grant Program, and Kawerak Early Childhood Programs.

The Department of Environmental Conservation conducts sanitation inspections.

The Department of Public Safety conducts fire inspections.

Other regulations also cover child abuse reporting and investigation, and the food services program. In all, six state agencies and the federal government are involved.

No one minimum standard of care exists for all children in Alaska as it does in most other states. The Department of Health and Social Services' regulations, which now apply to out-of-home care but not preschools, could be modified to include children of all ages in various settings. These regulations are the best guarantee of children's general health and safety so the current pre-elementary school regulations could be repealed, reducing gaps and overlaps in the state system.

Regulation helps assure children's rights to an acceptable level of care. Regulations help ensure that children are not at risk and are in a safe, healthy environment while their parents work.

To have affordable, quality child care, Alaska must recognize that society as a whole, and not just parents, is responsible for the care of our future generation.

In Alaska, the Municipality of Anchorage offers a choice of benefits to non-union employees and parents can pick child care at pre-taxed dollars. ARCO-Alaska's Dependent Care Task Force has developed a range of options for that company. Many small professional corporations offer a full range of child care benefits.

Anchorage's Providence Hospital and Ketchikan General Hospital have been among the few employers to offer employees on-site child care.

A partnership of public and private employers, parents and the community must work together to support quality child care in Alaska.

Operating Costs for Quality Child Care

| <u>Expense</u> | <u>Cost/Month/Child</u> | <u>Description of Allocation</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Teachers | \$300 | Full-time teachers @ \$2000/month (\$11.50/hour) and Part-time teachers @ \$1000/month |
| Food | 120 | 2 meals @ \$2.25 each and 1 snack @\$1/day |
| Rent and Property Tax | 54 | \$1 per square foot @ 35 sq. ft./child, 65% usable |
| Staff Benefits | 80 | 7.5% Social Security, \$75/month health insurance, 2 weeks vacation and 12 days sick leave and reduced child care cost for one-half of one child |
| Administrators | 60 | Average of \$2160/month @ 1.6 per program |
| Supplies and Educational Materials | 50 | Office, kitchen, classes and equipment |
| Support Personnel | 40 | Cook \$1500/month, bus driver \$1500/month, part-time janitor \$1000/month |
| Utilities | 20 | 2.47% of budget |
| Maintenance | 20 | 2.47% of budget |
| Miscellaneous | <u>10</u> | 1.23% of budget |
| Total | <u>\$754</u> per child per month | |

Comparison of Public Schools and Private Child Care Programs

| | <u>Public Schools</u> | <u>Private Child Care Facilities</u> |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Program hours/day: | 6.5 | 11 (average) |
| Children/teachers: | 25+:1 | 5:1 (under 12 months) 6:1 (under 30 months) 10:1 (preschools) 15:1 (kindergarten) 20:1 (school age) |
| Student days/year: | 180 | 252 (average) |
| Facilities: | Designed for children Paid for by government | Seldom designed for children Rented and renovated or donated by churches |
| Teacher qualifications: | Type A certificate/ 4 year degree | None (18 years old) |
| Teacher pay: | \$41,000/year, 9 month contract | \$6,890/year, 9 months \$9,186/year, 12 months |
| State support: | \$435/month/child plus capital appropriations | \$11 to \$25/month/child approximately |
| Local support: | Approximately 20% of operating budget of school district plus bond support | None, except in occasional rare grants for non-profits in general |
| Parent funding: | None required | 85% to 100% |

Assume a child care program with one class of maximum enrollments in each age group with all children attending full time. Enrollment income would be as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 5 infants | @ \$425/month | \$ 2,125 |
| 6 toddlers | @ \$375/month | 2,250 |
| 10 preschoolers | @ \$325/month | 3,250 |
| 15 kindergartners | @ \$225/month | 3,375 |
| 20 school age | @ \$150/month | 3,000 |
| Total | | <u>\$14,000</u> |

To calculate staff and benefits costs, assume an average wage of \$5.50 per hour, which while higher than the current average is still not adequate compensation for the level of responsibility, commitment and knowledge required to do a good job.

Benefits were computed as follows:

- 1 day/month sick leave
- 10 days per year vacation time (for full-time employees only)
- 7.5% of gross wage for Social Security
- 2.34% of gross wage for ESC taxes
- 0.47% of gross wage for workman's compensation insurance
- 66% of health insurance premium (no dependent coverage)
- No retirement
- 50% reduced child care charge for first child

Based on the above assumptions, the following are staff costs:

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Wages and Benefits/Month</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1.5 infant teachers | \$1,923 |
| 1.5 toddler teachers | 1,923 |
| 1.5 preschool teachers | 1,923 |
| 1 kindergarten teacher (6 hours/day) | 1,078 |
| 1 school age teacher (3.5 hours/day) | 553 |
| 1 bus driver (5 hours/day) | 787 |
| 1 janitor/maintenance (5 hours/day) | 787 |
| 1 cook (8 hours/day) | 1,294 |
| 1 director (8+ hours/day) | 2,596 |
| Total | <u>\$12,864</u> |

The difference between income and staff wages and benefits of \$1,136 must cover rent, insurance, food, vehicle maintenance, utilities, supplies and equipment. Receptionists, typists and accountants are luxuries few child care facilities can afford.

—Prepared by Commission member Patty Meritt.

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase the qualifications and availability of day care providers.

Issue

Quality child care is another issue of major concern to federal, state and local child advocates. Currently providers of day care do not meet the demand for child care needs, particularly for infants and non-standard care hours and days. In order to meet this demand, DCAP needs funding to provide education and training for providers. Current statutes (AS 44.47.305(d)) limit participation in such training programs to those providers participating in the Day Care Assistance Program. In addition, individuals are frequently overwhelmed by the licensing process and give up before they get started. These individuals are in need of assistance in understanding how to meet day care licensing requirements.

Implementation

- 1) Change Alaska Statute 44.47.305(d) to allow for training of non-licensed day care providers and those not currently in the DCAP program.
- 2) Provide additional funding to prevent current DCAP providers from dropping out of the program.

Cost

Additional education and training of additional providers would require approximately \$300,000 for FY 1992. Funding for the expansion of day care providers would require approximately \$200,000 in FY 1992.

Benefits

With approximately 600 State licensed homes and centers and 276 military certified homes and centers plus the numerous employees working in these centers, the \$200,000 would equate to a few

dollars per person per year at best but could prevent current care providers from dropping out of the system. Funding appropriate education and training activities is a method whereby large strides can be taken to increase quality care at a minimum cost.