

HB

126

<target><bill>HB 126</bill><subject>HB
126</subject><comm>SF1N26</comm></target>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

Sponsor Statement

CSHB 126(FIN): Success for Foster Youth

While we work hard to increase the success rate of Alaska's 2,000 foster youth, the homelessness and criminal activity numbers remain disconcerting. HB 126 makes two important fixes that will improve the lives and success outcomes of our youth. Currently approximately 29% of our foster youth end up incarcerated after leaving care, and roughly 37% end up homeless at some point in their life.

Foster Care Until Age 21

Following federal legislation signed by former President George W. Bush in 2008, 30 states have extended foster care until age 21 where a youth and state agree an extension is warranted. For youth who are not ready to stand on their own, an extra year in care can help develop the life skills and stability needed to succeed. Foster youth often have no one to call for support after leaving care, and an extra year of stability can make a profound difference. Extending foster care to 21 has been a priority for youth advocates, and the federal Fostering Connections Act provides federal funding to states that join in this reform.

Allowing Foster Care Reentry

When a youth leaves foster care, they are unable to return if they realize they made a poor choice. Sometimes a youth, faced with a host of problems, will make a mistake in seeking emancipation or leaving care. HB 126 allows reentry if it is in the youth's best interest, and provides for the Department to attach conditions to the reentry when reasonable. Currently at least 15 states allow reentry.

I would appreciate your support of HB 126, and am happy to answer any questions you may have.

January-May: State Capitol • Juneau, AK 99801-1182 • (907) 465-2647 • Fax (907) 465-3518
June-December: 716 W. 4th Avenue • Anchorage, AK 99501 • (907) 269-0106 • Fax (907) 269-0109
Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/14/10

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 126(FIN)

HB 126 EXTEND/RESUME STATE CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

"An Act relating to extensions and resumptions of state custody of children; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:
 Same Title
 New Title

HOUSE BILL:
 Same Title
 Technical Title Change
 New Title w/ SCR # _____



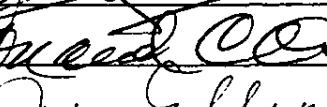
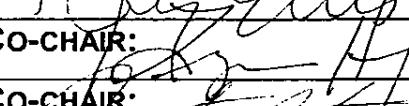
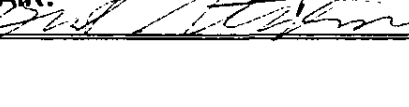

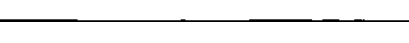
NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
DHS	4/6	✓			4
DHS	4/5	✓			5
DHS	4/6	✓			6

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Huggins			 	
	Thomas	✓			
	Egan	✓			
	Elso			✓	
CO-CHAIR: 	Ellis	X			
CO-CHAIR: 		✓			
				✓	

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 6
Bill Version: CSHB 126(HSS)
(H) Publish Date: 4/7/10

Identifier (file name): HB126CS(HSS)-DHSS-CSM-04-06-10 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
Title: Foster Care/CINA/Education of Homeless RDU: Children's Services
Component: Children's Services Management
Sponsor: Gara
Requester: House HSS Component Number: 2666

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	Appropriation Required	Information					
	FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual	204.2		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	204.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES (
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	73.5						
1003 GF Match	130.7						
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	204.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The intent of CSHB126(HSS) is to extend foster care services to youth who stay in custody between the ages of 18 and 21, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the youth, and the youth consents to remain in care. It also extends the option to those youth ages 16 to 21 who have been emancipated to return to foster care.

The Office of Children's Services Online Resource for the Children of Alaska (ORCA) data base is mandated by the federal government and must be continuously updated to reflect changes in both state and federal law and policy. In addition, functionality in ORCA provides OCS the ability to claim federal reimbursement for eligible clients. Without these updates, OCS will not meet federal outcomes and mandates, will not establish the correct foster care rates for care providers of youth that are older than age 19, will not be able to claim federal reimbursement for costs associated with these older youth, and may be subject to federal fines.

Prepared by: Tammy Sandoval, Director
Division: Office of Children's Services

Phone: 465-3191
Date/Time: 4/5/10 2:00 PM

Approved by: Alison Elgee, Assistant Commissioner
DHSS Finance & Management Services

Date: 4/6/2010

FISCAL NOTE #6

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 126(HSS)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Functional Area	Enhancement Description	Total # of Hrs.	Total Cost
Update Services page with new youth Services	Page documents services OCS provides a youth or family member in care. The enhancement requires adding additional services such as Vocational Training.	200	\$22,000
Update Education page with post-secondary information	Page records youth education and training. The enhancement requires adding reference values for vocational and post-secondary education and training to record and report completion of the Services such as vocational training.	140	\$15,400
Update Out-of-Home Placement (OHP) page for unlicensed Independent Living Services	Page documents a child's IL placement. The enhancement requires updates to the services categories (foster care, group home, institution, etc.) and service types (going from 16-18 to 18-21). Additionally, updates to the business logic are needed to ensur	200	\$22,000
Update Out-of-Home Page for licensed Foster Care Services	The OHP page documents a child's placement with a licensed provider for correct FC payments. Services categories and service types for older youth required.	220	\$24,200
Update reference values for youth 18-21	ORCA pages use business logic that includes the person's age to complete work on the page. Updates to include older youth are required.	140	\$15,400
Update IV-E Eligibility calculations to include youth 18-21	Page calculates a child's eligibility for IV-E reimbursement funding. A new age category for older youth will be necessary.	340	\$37,400
Update Medicaid Eligibility calculations to include youth 18-21	Medicaid Eligibility page requires the new age category and new age parameters to determine eligibility for Medicaid services.	340	\$37,400
Update ORCA Reports to include youth 18-21	ORCA produces federally mandated and management reports that use age parameters. Parameters must be updated to include older youth.	76	\$8,360
Batch job updates to include youth 18-21	Background processing (batch jobs) determine eligibility reimbursement and payments amounts. Service types for older youth are necessary to correctly calculating reimbursements.	200	\$22,000
TOTAL FISCAL NOTE COSTS* COST BELOW WILL BE ABSORBED INTO CURRENT ORCA FUNDING			\$204,200
Update Interfaces	Interfaces are information exchanges between ORCA and other systems such as EIS, NSTAR, JOMIS. The enhancement requires updates to the Medicaid interface to include older youth.	200	\$22,000
Update ORCA automated messages and ticklers	ORCA automated messages and ticklers are tracking tools for line wokers. Updates to the messages and ticklers to include the new age category is required.	140	\$15,400
Updates to Provider Licensing	Licensing Page documents the provider's license to provide services based on the child's age. The enhancement requires adding new license service categories and service type for older youth in order to collect federal reimbursements.	76	\$8,360
Case Plan Documents	Older youth in Foster Care will require additions to ongoing case plans (such as "received GED" to document services and outcomes for the youth. parameters.	140	\$15,400
Service Intake	Page documents requests for services from OCS and requires updates to the age parameters to allow services intakes for youth over 18.	76	\$8,360
Protective services Intake, Investigation, and Provider Investigation.	PS intake and Investigations provide for protective services reports of a abuse and neglect. Pages require updates to the age parameters to include youth victims over 18.	140	\$15,400

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 5
Bill Version: CSHB 126(HSS)
(H) Publish Date: 4/7/10

Identifier (file name): HB126CS(HSS)-DHSS-FCSN-04-06-10 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
Title: Foster Care/CINA/Education of Homeless RDU: Children's Services
Component: Foster Care Special Needs
Sponsor: Gara
Requester: House HSS Component Number: 2238

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
OPERATING EXPENDITURE								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims	41.0		81.9	81.9	81.9	81.9	81.9	81.9
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	41.0	0.0	81.9	81.9	81.9	81.9	81.9	81.9

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES								
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
1002 Federal Receipts	2.2		4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
1003 GF Match	38.8		77.5	77.5	77.5	77.5	77.5
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	41.0	0.0	81.9	81.9	81.9	81.9	81.9

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The intent of CSHB126 is to extend foster care services to youth who stay in custody between the ages of 18 and 21, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the youth, and the youth consents to remain in care. It also extends the option to those youth ages 16 to 21 who have been emancipated to return to foster care.

This fiscal note addresses increased foster care special needs costs for youth who remain in foster care beyond age 18. Special needs costs include: items such as youth specific travel (foster family vacations, biological family visitation, any necessary treatment or medical costs not paid by Medicaid, school or cultural events, or summer camp; tutoring; prescribed diet or food services; extraordinary clothing related to growth spurts or medically fragile conditions that exceed the allocated 10% of the foster care base rate; or damage costs of up to \$5,000 if the damages were caused by an act of the child or youth.

Prepared by: Tammy Sandoval, Director
Division: Office of Children's Services

Phone 465-3191
Date/Time 4/5/2010 1200:00 PM

Approved by: Alison Elgee, Assistant Commissioner
DHSS Finance & Management Services

Date 4/6/2010

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

The following assumptions have been applied:

- 1) OCS successfully implements all federal program requirements to extend foster care to age 21 within the first 6 months of FY 2011.
- 2) The number of youth who return to foster care after emancipation will be minimal. An estimate provided by the Facing Foster Care in Alaska group equaled 3.
- 3) The number of youth who turn age 18 will remain somewhat consistent from year to year and are based on the average number of children in custody ages 17 through 19 as of February, 2010 [80 youth]. No consideration has been included in this note for a possible influx of youth into the program extension during the first year of implementation nor to possible growth in out years.
- 4) Calculations are based on full time equivalents (FTEs) to account for youth who move in and out of the program for varying reasons. FTEs are calculated using a 94.23% conversion rate.
- 5) Approximately 45% of youth ages 19 and 20 will remain in care. This assumption is not supported by any known Alaska statistics but is an estimate that ties to the average number of youth who experience some postsecondary education in the State of Illinois. Illinois one of the few states that have experience providing care to age 21. The assumption is that the majority of youth who remain in school may remain in foster care as well.
- 6) No monetary adjustments have been included to address the possibilities of youth who develop special needs such as medical fragility or pregnancy before age 21 and return to foster care.
- 7) Calculations use the average cost per child for special needs items.
- 8) 66% percent of the youth who remain in care will follow through with post secondary education or work at least 80 hours per month and remain within the requirements of the Adoption and Guardianship Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 to be eligible for IV-E federal reimbursement. This assumption is not based on data but an experience-based guess by OCS staff.
- 9) The foster care penetration rate and the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage will remain somewhat stable.

Average number of youth age 17 through 19 = 81. 81 youth x 94.23% FTE conversion = 76 FTEs. 76 FTEs applying the assumption that about 45% will remain in care through ages 19 and 20 = approximately 35 FTEs.

Estimated cost per FTE = \$2,340.00 annually x 35 FTEs = \$81,900. Federal reimbursement for these costs is estimated at 5.4% or \$4,422.6.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 4
 Bill Version: CSHB 126(HSS)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/7/10

Identifier (file name): HB126CS(HSS)-DHSS-FCBR-04-06-10 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: Foster Care/CINA/Education of Homeless RDU: Children's Services
 Component: Foster Care Base Rate
 Sponsor: Gara
 Requester: House HSS Component Number: 2236

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
OPERATING EXPENDITURE								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims		224.0		444.5	444.5	444.5	444.5	444.5
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		224.0	0.0	444.5	444.5	444.5	444.5	444.5

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES								
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
1002 Federal Receipts	37.2		73.7	73.7	73.7	73.7	73.7
1003 GF Match	186.8		370.8	370.8	370.8	370.8	370.8
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	224.0	0.0	444.5	444.5	444.5	444.5	444.5

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The intent of CSHB126(HSS) is to extend foster care services to youth who stay in custody between the ages of 18 and 21, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the youth, and the youth consents to remain in care. It also extends the option to those youth ages 16 to 21 who have been emancipated to return to foster care.

This fiscal note addresses increased foster care reimbursement costs for youth who remain in foster care beyond age 18 above and beyond those 18 and 19 year olds who already remain in care.

The following assumptions have been applied:

Prepared by: Tammy Sandoval, Director
 Division: Office of Children's Services
 Approved by: Alison Elgee, Assistant Commissioner
DHSS Finance & Management Services

Phone 465-3191
 Date/Time 4/5/10 12:30 PM
 Date 4/6/2010

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

The following assumptions have been applied:

- 1) OCS successfully implements all federal program requirements to extend foster care to age 21 within the first 6 months of FY 2011.
- 2) The number of youth who return to foster care after emancipation will be minimal. An estimate provided by the Facing Foster Care in Alaska group equaled 3.
- 3) The number of youth who turn age 18 will remain somewhat consistent from year to year and are based on the average number of children in custody ages 17 through 19 as of February, 2010 [80 youth]. No consideration has been included in this note for a possible influx of youth into the program extension during the first year of implementation nor to possible growth in out years.
- 4) Calculations are based on full time equivalents (FTEs) to account for youth who move in and out of the program for varying reasons. FTEs are calculated using a 94.23% conversion rate.
- 5) Approximately 45% of youth ages 19 and 20 will remain in care. This assumption is not supported by any known Alaska statistics but is an estimate that ties to the average number of youth who experience some postsecondary education in the State of Illinois. Illinois one of the few states that have experience providing care to age 21. The assumption is that the majority of youth who remain in school may remain in foster care as well.
- 6) No monetary adjustments have been included to address the possibilities of youth who develop special needs such as medical fragility or pregnancy before age 21 and return to foster care.
- 7) 66% percent of the youth who remain in care will follow through with post secondary education or work at least 80 hours per month and remain within the requirements of the Adoption and Guardianship Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 to be eligible for IV-E federal reimbursement. This assumption is not based on data but an experience-based guess by OCS staff.
- 8) The foster care penetration rate and the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage will remain somewhat stable.

Average number of youth age 17 through 19 = 81. 81 youth x 94.23% FTE conversion = 76 FTEs. 76 FTEs applying the assumption that about 45% will remain in care through ages 19 and 20 = approximately 35 FTEs.

Fiscal Year	FTEs	½ Year Cost/FTE	Annual Cost/FTE	Est. FFP	Total Annual Cost	Federal Funds	General Funds
2011	35	\$6.4	\$12.7	16.59%	\$224.0	\$37.2	\$186.8
2012	35		\$12.7	16.59%	\$444.5	\$73.7	\$370.8
2013	35		\$12.7	16.59%	\$444.5	\$73.7	\$370.8
2014	35		\$12.7	16.59%	\$444.5	\$73.7	\$370.8
2015	35		\$12.7	16.59%	\$444.5	\$73.7	\$370.8
2016	35		\$12.7	16.59%	\$444.5	\$73.7	\$370.8

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 126(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/12/10

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GARA, Crawford, Kerttula, Gardner, Harris, Richard Foster, Edgmon, Muñoz, Lynn, Herron, Dahlstrom, Johansen, Millett, Doogan, Gruenberg, Peggy Wilson, Petersen, Buch, Holmes, Tuck, Joule, Guttenberg, Neal Foster, Johnson, Cissna

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to extensions and resumptions of state custody of children; and
2 providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 47.10.080(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) If the court finds that the child is a child in need of aid, the court shall

6 (1) order the child committed to the department for placement in an
7 appropriate setting for a period of time not to exceed two years or in any event not to
8 extend past the date the child becomes 19 years of age, except that the department, the
9 child, or the child's guardian ad litem may petition for and the court may grant in a
10 hearing

11 (A) one-year extensions of commitment that do not extend
12 beyond the child's 19th birthday if the extension is in the best interests of the
13 child; and

14 (B) [AN] additional one-year extensions of commitment

1 [PERIOD OF STATE CUSTODY] past 19 years of age that do not extend
 2 beyond the person's 21st birthday, if the continued state custody is in the
 3 best interests of the person and the person consents to it;

4 (2) order the child released to a parent, adult family member, or
 5 guardian of the child or to another suitable person, and, in appropriate cases, order the
 6 parent, adult family member, guardian, or other person to provide medical or other
 7 care and treatment; if the court releases the child, it shall direct the department to
 8 supervise the care and treatment given to the child, but the court may dispense with
 9 the department's supervision if the court finds that the adult to whom the child is
 10 released will adequately care for the child without supervision; the department's
 11 supervision may not exceed two years or in any event extend past the date the child
 12 reaches 19 years of age, except that the department or the child's guardian ad litem
 13 may petition for and the court may grant in a hearing

14 (A) one-year extensions of supervision that do not extend
 15 beyond the child's 19th birthday if the extensions are in the best interests of the
 16 child; and

17 (B) an additional one-year period of supervision past 19 years
 18 of age if the continued supervision is in the best interests of the person and the
 19 person consents to it; or

20 (3) order, under the grounds specified in (o) of this section or
 21 AS 47.10.088, the termination of parental rights and responsibilities of one or both
 22 parents and commit the child to the custody of the department, and the department
 23 shall report quarterly to the court on efforts being made to find a permanent placement
 24 for the child.

25 * Sec. 2. AS 47.10.080 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

26 (v) In addition to the extensions of state custody ordered by a court under
 27 (c)(1)(A) or (B) of this section, a court may grant in a hearing a resumption of state
 28 custody that does not extend beyond a person's 21st birthday if the person

29 (1) consents to it;

30 (2) was placed in out-of-home care by the department immediately
 31 before being released from state custody and the person was released to the person's

1 own custody;

2 (3) is in need of out-of-home care to avoid personal harm or
3 homelessness, or to enhance the person's ability to continue the person's education or
4 training or otherwise improve the person's successful transition to independent living;
5 and

6 (4) if requested by the department, agrees to reasonable terms for
7 resuming state custody that may include matters relating to the person's education,
8 attainment of a job or life skills, or other terms found by the court to be reasonable and
9 in the person's best interest.

10 * Sec. 3. AS 47.10.990(3) is amended to read:

11 (3) "child" means a person who is

12 (A) under 18 years of age;

13 (B) [AND A PERSON] 19 years of age if that person was
14 under 18 years of age at the time that a proceeding under this chapter was
15 commenced; and

16 (C) under 21 years of age if that person is committed to the
17 custody of the department under AS 47.10.080(c)(1) or (v);

18 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2011.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

Sectional Analysis

CSHB 126(FIN): Success for Foster Youth

Section 1

Extends the eligibility for foster care to age 21.

Section 2

Allows for voluntary reentry to foster care until age 21.

Section 3

Expands the definition of "child" to include a person under 21 years of age that is in state custody.

Section 4

Established the effective date of January 1, 2011.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

Summary of Changes

Changes made to HB 126

HB 126 has undergone major changes and restructuring since it was first introduced. Many of the original provisions of the bill have been deleted, and new sections have been added.

The bill now contains two discrete provisions: extending foster care to age 21, and allowing voluntary reentry to care.

The following are changes made to the original version of HB 126:

Section 1

Deleted

Section 2

Deleted

Section 3

Deleted

Section 4

Deleted

Section 5

Deleted

Section 6

Deleted

Section 7

January-May: State Capitol • Juneau, AK 99801-1182 • (907) 465-2647 • Fax (907) 465-3518
June-December: 716 W. 4th Avenue • Anchorage, AK 99501 • (907) 269-0106 • Fax (907) 269-0109
Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

Deleted

Section 8

Deleted

Section 9

Defines a "child" as a person under 21 years of age that is committed to the custody of the department under AS 47.10.080(c)(1) or (v).

This is now Section 3 of CSHB 126(FIN).

Section 10

Deleted

Section 11

Deleted

Section 12

Deleted

Section 13

Deleted

New provisions in CSHB 126(FIN) are as follows:

Section 1

Extends the eligibility for foster care to age 21.

Section 2

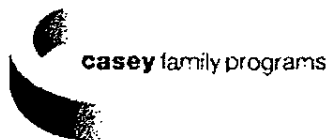
Allows for voluntary reentry to foster care until age 21.

Section 3

Expands the definition of "child" to include a person under 21 years of age that is in state custody.

Section 4

Establishes the effective date of January 1, 2011.

[x Close](#)

State Child Welfare Policy Database

> Older Youth in Foster Care > Foster Care Age Limits > Age at which youth become ineligible to remain in foster care

State	When are youth ineligible to remain in foster care?
Alabama	21st birthday
Alaska	20th birthday
Arizona	21st birthday
Arkansas	21st birthday
California	Don't know
Colorado	21st birthday
Connecticut	24th birthday
Delaware	19th birthday
District of Columbia	21st birthday
Florida	18th birthday
Georgia	21st birthday
Hawaii	Depends on the situation
Idaho	19th birthday
Illinois	21st birthday
Indiana	21st birthday
Iowa	20th birthday
Kansas	21st birthday
Kentucky	21st birthday
Louisiana	21st birthday
Maine	21st birthday
Maryland	--
Massachusetts	Depends on the situation
Michigan	20th birthday
Minnesota	21st birthday
Mississippi	Depends on the situation
Missouri	21st birthday
Montana	--

Nebraska	19th birthday
Nevada	21st birthday
New Hampshire	21st birthday
New Jersey	21st birthday
New Mexico	18th birthday
New York	21st birthday
North Carolina	21st birthday
North Dakota	21st birthday
Ohio	Depends on the situation
Oklahoma	--
Oregon	21st birthday
Pennsylvania	21st birthday
Rhode Island	--
South Carolina	21st birthday
South Dakota	--
Tennessee	19th birthday
Texas	22nd birthday
Utah	21st birthday
Vermont	22nd birthday
Virginia	21st birthday
Washington	21st birthday
West Virginia	--
Wisconsin	19th birthday
Wyoming	21st birthday

www.childwelfarepolicy.org
 Developed and Managed By Child Trends

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

MARCH 23, 2010



REPORT NUMBER 10.209

YOUTH RE-ENTERING FOSTER CARE AFTER TURNING 18

PREPARED FOR REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

BY TIM SPENGLER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

You asked whether Alaska or any states allow youth 18 years of age or older to re-enter the foster care system. Additionally, you wanted to know if child welfare organizations have developed a "best practices" model for re-entry after the age of 18.

Alaska law does not allow youth who have left foster care to re-enter after they are age 18 or older.¹ Under Alaska Statute 47.10.080, youth are able, in certain circumstances, to extend their stay in foster care until they are 19 or 20; however, if they have left foster care, and are 18 or older, they are unable to re-enter the system.

We identified 15 states (Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, and Washington) that allow youth over age 18 to re-enter foster care under varying circumstances. Below we highlight aspects of each state's program.² As you will note from this summary, re-entry in many states is dependent on the education plan of the youth in question.

- ◆ Alabama - Youth who were in "out of home" care on or after their 18th birthday have the option of returning to care if they are living in a situation in which there is an identifiable risk of harm.
- ◆ Arizona - Teens and young adults who left the Arizona foster care system at age 18 or older may request to re-enter foster care prior to their 21st birthday. All foster care services end on the person's 21st birthday.
- ◆ Connecticut - Until they turn 21, youth can return to care as long as they were in care on their 18th birthday, and the purpose of re-entry is to either obtain education or work skills for transition into adulthood.

¹ Mike Lesmann, community program manager, Office of Children's Services, Department of Health and Social Services at (907) 465-3548.

² We identified state programs through a number of sources including the Casey Family Programs (<http://www.casey.org>), the Child Welfare League of America (<http://cwla.org>), and the National Conference of State Legislatures (<http://www.ncsl.org>).

- ◆ Illinois – Former foster care youth under 21 may “reengage” with the Department of Children and Family Services in order to secure essential supports and services to learn to live independently as adults.³
- ◆ Indiana - Youth must meet eligibility requirements to re-enter care under the Older Youth in Foster Care Program. In Attachment A, we include the Indiana Code (31-28-5.7-1) pertaining to this program as well as correspondence from the Department of Child Services outlining the program. Indiana’s Independent Living Program is detailed at <http://www.in.gov/dcs/2530.htm>.
- ◆ Iowa - A youth can return to care provided that he or she is still working on a high school education or GED. Individuals can remain in care up to the age of 20.
- ◆ Kentucky - Youth have up to six months after reaching age 18 to decide if they would like to return to care.
- ◆ Maine - Youth must typically enroll in the optional Volunteer Extended Care Program prior to, or within 90-days following, reaching age 18. In some exceptional cases youth who have been out of care for more than 90 days are permitted to re-enter foster care. Program details are available at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/cw/v92.htm>.
- ◆ Massachusetts - Youth may request to re-enter care as long as they have not reached age 22, even if they voluntarily exited at age 18.
- ◆ Minnesota - Youth are able to re-enter care as long as they were “wards of the state” and have not reached the age of 21, even if they voluntarily exited at age 18. The re-entry provision does not apply if the youth’s parents’ parental rights have not been terminated.
- ◆ New York - A youth age 18 or older can re-enter care if that individual is on a “trial discharge” and is in need of services. Youth age 18 or older with a status of “final discharge” cannot return to care, although some agencies at their own discretion may provide assistance to these youth.
- ◆ Oklahoma - If a youth has exited care without completing the requirements for a high school diploma or without obtaining a GED, that individual may return on a voluntary basis if a placement is available. The youth may remain in care until completing high school or the GED, or until age 21, whichever comes first.
- ◆ Texas - The Return to Care program allows certain eligible youth age 18 to 21 years of age to return to care in order to attend high school or GED courses (up to age 22), or to attend a vocational or technical program (up to age 21). In Attachment B, we provide a copy the pertinent Texas Administrative Code (Rule 700.346) as well as Return to Care policy

³ The full 34-page text of enrolled House Bill 4054, which allows for reengagement of former foster youth, can be accessed at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/>

information taken from the Department of Family and Protective Services handbook.

- ◆ Virginia - If a youth decides to leave foster care, he or she can resume independent living services as long as he or she returns within 60 days of discontinuance of services.
- ◆ Washington - Youth can re-enter foster care via the Foster Care to 21 program within six months of leaving care if they are enrolled in a post-secondary education program. (We include a program description as Attachment C.) A Washington State Institute for Public Policy report from January 2010 found that Foster Care to 21 participants had higher college attendance rates, fewer arrests, and used food stamps for a shorter period of time than did foster youth who graduated from high school before the program was available. The report (also included in Attachment C) estimates a taxpayer benefit of \$1.35 for every dollar spent on the program.

In Attachment D, we include the statutory language from both Virginia (CV 63.2-905.1) and Washington (RCW 74.13.031) pertaining to former foster care youth over 18 reentering the system.

We could identify no "best practices" or official policy positions put forth by child welfare or foster care organizations regarding allowing youth over 18 to re-enter foster care. Nevertheless, it is commonly held by experts in the field that many, if not most, 18 year-olds—whether they were in the foster system or not—are ill-equipped to function as independent adults. To that point, we include an issue brief (Attachment E), from the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Center for Children entitled, "When Should the State Cease Parenting?," which suggests that allowing youth to remain (or re-enter) foster care past age 18 would benefit both them and society.

Attachment E also contains a print article from National Public Radio entitled, "Generation Next in the Slow Lane to Adulthood." The piece examines how the current generation of young adults is quite dissimilar to past generations in terms of becoming independent from their parents and being prepared for the responsibilities of adulthood.

We hope you find this information to be useful. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Attachments available upon request.
Contact Rep. Gara's office at 465-2647.

The New York Times
Reprints

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers here or use the "Reprints" tool that appears next to any article. Visit www.nytreprints.com for samples and additional information. Order a reprint of this article now.

PRINTER FRIENDLY FORMAT
SPONSORED BY



April 6, 2010

Study Finds More Woes Following Foster Care

By ERIK ECKHOLM

Only half the youths who had turned 18 and "aged out" of foster care were employed by their mid-20s. Six in 10 men had been convicted of a crime, and three in four women, many of them with children of their own, were receiving some form of public assistance. Only six in 100 had completed even a community college degree.

The dismal outlook for youths who are thrust into a shaky adulthood from the foster care system — now numbering some 30,000 annually — has been documented with new precision by a long-term study released Wednesday, the largest to follow such children over many years.

Researchers studied the outcomes for 602 youths in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, and compared them with their peers who had not been in foster care. Most youths had entered the foster care system in their early teens and then were required to leave it at 18 or, in the case of Illinois, 21.

"We took them away from their parents on the assumption that we as a society would do a better job of raising them," said Mark Courtney, a social work researcher at the University of Washington who led the study with colleagues from the Partners for Our Children program at Washington and the Chapin Hall center at the University of Chicago. "We've invested a lot of money and time in their care, and by many measures they're still doing very poorly."

Over the last decade, the federal government and many states have started to assist former foster care youths with education grants, temporary housing subsidies and, in some places, extra years of state custody and support. The new data showed that just over half of them are doing reasonably well and benefit from such aid. But they throw a spotlight, researchers said, on two groups that need more sweeping and lasting help.

About one-fourth of the people in the study, mainly women, are receiving public aid and struggling to raise their own children, usually without a high school degree. Researchers found

that one in five in a second group, mainly men, are badly floundering, with multiple criminal convictions, low education and incomes and, often, mental health or substance abuse problems.

Once they leave foster care, these most troubled youths often have no reliable adults to advise them or provide emotional support, said Gary Stangler, director of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, a private foundation. "When these kids make a mistake, it's life altering, they have nothing to fall back on," Mr. Stangler said.

Finding a mentor who provides "that backbone you need" has made all the difference, said Cameron Anderson, 21, of Tampa, Fla., who entered foster care at 15 after he got into trouble with the law, then lived in group homes.

Mr. Anderson, who is now in community college and works at a printer cartridge company, receives education and other financial aid that has helped him keep an apartment. But he has made some missteps since moving out on his own, he said, like not paying bills in full so he could buy shoes and hanging out with old friends who were bad influences.

Last fall, he was introduced to a mentor, an investor in Tampa, by a Casey program, Connected by 25. The two now speak daily, Mr. Anderson said, discussing "school and life in general, even to the point where he'll say, 'Hey, are you using protection?'"

Had he had such a relationship earlier, Mr. Anderson said, "it would have saved me from a ton of bridges I've had to cross."

While younger children are often adopted when their parents' rights are terminated, fewer prospective parents want to adopt teenagers. Recent research, including the new study, shows that most foster children, even though they have been removed from their homes, maintain ties with a parent or other relative. Some agencies are trying to support such ties or to locate relatives who might adopt the children or provide long-term support.

Illinois, New York, Vermont and the District of Columbia now allow youths to remain in foster care to age 21, and some states help with transitional housing.

Congress in 2008 passed a law providing matching money to states that extend foster care to age 21, something that the authors of the study call for. But in the face of large budget deficits, few states have signed on so far.

Newsweek

PRINT THIS

SOCIAL SERVICES

Children of the System

New research supports a radical shift in child-welfare policy for the thousands of teens who 'age out' of foster care at age 18, only to face high rates of homelessness, unemployment and incarceration.

By Daniel Heimpel | Newsweek Web Exclusive
Mar 9, 2009

Eighteen-year-old John Kyzer's blue eyes are bleary and the skin around them puffy as he paces a corner of Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. Kyzer has been spending his nights on a bench in front of a Starbucks. And now, he is dangerously close to entering the ranks of dozens of other former foster youth who "cop a squat" (sit) on concrete stairwells and sleep in "abandos" (abandoned buildings) up and down the street.

Soon after his 18th birthday, the state of California "terminated" Kyzer's case and he was forced to leave his group home. He moved in with his girlfriend and their 4-month-old baby in the home she shared with three generations of her family. Wanting to help support his son, Kyzer got a job at Starbucks and worked as many hours as the boss would give him. For two months his confidence brimmed.


But then he did something many teenagers do. He blew off work and was fired. Now, the door to his girlfriend's house is shut. Kyzer is on his own.

For Kyzer and many of the more than 25,000 other foster youth in the United States who "age out" of the system every year, there is no family and no support network to pick you up when you fall. Within two years of emancipation, half of Los Angeles County's foster youth will be unemployed, one fifth will be homeless and a quarter will have been to prison, according to the Children's Law Center. Similar fates can be expected across the country for many of the 500,000 children who call the state their parents.

But a law signed by President Bush in the waning days of his administration could radically change the futures of these children. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 offers states matching federal funds to extend care to age 21 for all foster youth who choose to stay in the system after their 18th birthday. What's meant by "care" would vary state by state, but could include extending Medicaid coverage to age 21 (which about 20 states now do), providing housing vouchers or access to group homes, vocational training, educational funding and psychological counseling services.

"We have known for a long time that kids don't suddenly become self-sufficient at the age of 18," says the federal bill's sponsor, Rep. Jim McDermott of Washington state. "The law we passed last year finally

GET 4 FREE TRIAL ISSUES



Get insight and analysis into the news that matters most.
Every day. Every week.
Every year.

TRY IT FOR FREE >>



recognized the need to better provide the building blocks of success to these children."

Research released Monday suggests that the approach makes financial sense for a government weighed down by the costs of incarceration, welfare, Medicaid and homelessness incurred by former foster youth who struggle after emancipation. Conducted by the University of Washington School of Social Work, the study finds that caring for young adults until age 21 will represent a return of \$2.40 on every government dollar spent in California.

Experts hope the report will lead more states to implement the federal law. But adding anything to a state budget right now is a hard sell. Thus far only seven states have put forward such legislation, including California. And before the passage of the federal legislation, only two states had implemented comprehensive extended care for foster kids after age 18—Illinois and Vermont.

The study's leading researcher, Mark Courtney, director of Partners for Our Children, a public-private collaboration promoting child-welfare reform at the University of Washington, sees the federal legislation as the most radical shift in child-welfare policy in the last decade. "The government has been unwilling to help kids after 18 beyond teaching them independent-living skills," he says. "That is not what parents do. A parent is not happy to kick a kid out at 18 and say good luck."

Courtney's earlier work has shown significant long-term benefits for kids who get a few more year's care versus those who are pushed out of the system at 18. His hallmark "Midwest Study," published in 2005, was instrumental in shaping the current federal legislation. That report followed 732 foster youth through their 17th, 18th and 21st birthdays. It found that along with lower rates of incarceration, homelessness and unemployment, young people in a state like Illinois, which extends care until 21, were 3.5 times as likely to have completed a year of college than peers in states like Iowa and Wisconsin, which routinely cut care at 18. (Census data show that less than 3 percent of foster kids earn college degrees, compared with 28 percent of the population as a whole.)

"The minute we kick them out they start looking for their families," says Karen Bass, speaker of the California Assembly and coauthor of The California Fostering Connections to Success Act. The legislation plans to increase spending to \$70 million in California for youths age 18 to 21, largely through the newly available federal funds. "When they can't find their families, they make families of their own on Hollywood Boulevard. In L.A., they are couch surfing; you have groups of young people living together and it is homelessness, just a different form." Bass and coauthor Jim Beall say that despite the budget wrangle and deficits that California faces, the bill bears the name of 26 Assembly members, has wide cross-aisle support and will likely pass.

In this latest study of foster care, Courtney narrowed his focus on higher education. As he had already shown, young people in extended care were better equipped to pursue a higher level of education and thus vastly increased their lifetime earning potential. For an expenditure of \$37,948 over the course of extended care, Courtney concludes that those foster youth will earn \$92,000 more in their working life. "We are talking about spending \$38,000 over one to three years versus what it costs to incarcerate somebody for 20 to 30 years," says Bass. In California, the Department of Corrections anticipates the annual cost of incarceration will jump to \$53,000 in fiscal year 2009-10.

But these undeniable statistics are running headlong into the cold reality of a national financial crisis. "Here is the most significant piece of [foster-care] legislation in a decade and it may be slowed down by these

economic times," says Kathi Crowe, executive director of the Foster Care Coalition. "It's almost too bad it is optional." Nonetheless, Courtney believes that the evidence he has presented along with the National Youth in Transition Database, which will be implemented nationwide as of October 2010 and will track young people as they mature into adulthood, will force states to act. "At that point some states may be shamed into changing their laws if the outcomes of their former foster youth look much worse than the outcomes for youth in states that have extended care to 21."

But for Kyzer and the kids currently "copping a squat" on the streets, it may be too late. "I just wasn't ready," Kyzer says of being a father, holding a job and moving into his own place. Tonight he is couch surfing, but tomorrow, his only option may be an abando.

Find this article at

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/188493>

© 2009



April 6, 2010

To the Alaska State Legislature:

As current and former foster youth of Alaska's child welfare system, we would like to express our support for House Bill 126. HB 126 aides foster youth as they make the transition into adulthood, oftentimes without a safety net or family to turn to for support once they have entered into the world on their own.

Studies show that the benefits greatly outweigh the costs to society for youth who extend foster care to age 21. Youth who extend care have better overall outcomes throughout the course of their lives. Allowing young people to remain in care until age 21 is associated with increased postsecondary educational attainment, delayed pregnancy, higher earnings, and a greater likelihood of receiving independent living services.

Statistics show that youth who leave Alaska's foster care system become homeless at a rate of 40%, fall behind in their education, are at risk of early pregnancy, and have a high rate of adult incarceration. The purpose of this bill is to help children and youth in foster care throughout the state make a successful transition to independence.

Many young people who venture out into the world on their own, have caring parents willing to allow them the option of coming home if they fall through the cracks when asserting their independence. Youth who leave the foster care system, don't have the luxury of going home. Allowing youth to re-enter the foster care system once they have left, creates a safety net for our young people and allows them room for growth.

The members of Facing Foster Care in Alaska know that this is an important bill. It will benefit the community at large by creating opportunities for foster youth to become productive, successful members of society as adults.

Thank you for your support in improving the lives of Alaska's foster children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amanda Metivier'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Metivier
FFCA Coordinator



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Haywood, President
Juneau

Linda Janidlo, Vice President
Anchorage

Karen Zeman, Secretary
Anchorage

Jeff Bush, Treasurer
Juneau

Martha Anagick Aarons
Anchorage

Amanda Metivier
Anchorage

Johnny Weaver
Anchorage

Liisia K. Blizzard
Kenai

Valerie Dudley *ex officio*
Alaska CASA Program
Anchorage

Kymberley Miller *ex officio*
Kenaitze CASA Program
Kenai

ADVISORY BOARD

Nadine Winter
Fairbanks

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ryan Zinn
Anchorage

The Honorable
Representative Les Gara
Alaska State Capitol
Room 500
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SUPPORT HB 126

Dear Representative Gara,

I am writing to express the support of Friends of Alaska CASA (FAC) for House Bill 126. This bill, as you know, will help foster youth transition more successfully from state care to independent living.

Currently 38% of foster youth aging out of the system end up homeless. This bill attempts to remedy this reality through several assistance measures, including extending foster care to age 21 and allowing for reentry into care until age 21 if a youth is emancipated or voluntarily leaves care after turning 18.

Additionally, HB 126 reflects a larger national movement among children's advocacy groups to extend foster care to 21 years of age. In fact, 30 states already provide this option. Extending foster care will allow youth to better prepare themselves for independent living, and avoid common problems (such as homelessness and dependence on public assistance) faced by foster youth aging out of the system.

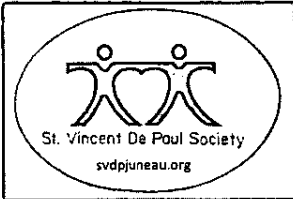
Allowing former foster youth to reenter care after leaving voluntarily will support youth in their pursuit of higher education or vocational training. Extending foster care and allowing reentry will improve foster youths' chance of success as they transition to independent living.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RZ", written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Zinn
Executive Director



**St. Vincent de Paul Society
Juneau, Alaska**

svdpjuneau.org

Mary Fitterer, President

Ida Barnack

Paul Paradis

Mary Ann Welp

Robert Rehfeld

Jean Messing

Alan Rogers

Harold Heidersdorf

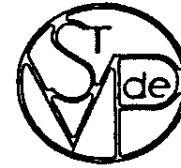
James Studley

Gloria Bodron

Benny Cruz

Gary Horton

*We provide material and
spiritual charity and work
for social justice for all
people.*



St. Vincent de Paul Society

Diocesan Council of Southeast Alaska, Inc.

8617 Teal St., Juneau, Alaska 99801

(907) 789-5535 phone

st.vincentdepaul.juneau@gci.net

(907) 789-2557 fax

April 13, 2010

Members of the Twenty Sixth Alaska State Legislature;

I write today in support of HB 126, "An Act relating to extensions and resumptions of state custody of children; and providing for an effective date."

The St. Vincent de Paul Society operates the largest homeless family shelter in Southeast. We also provide licensed daycare to an average of 15 children currently in state custody. Everyday we see the depressing continuum of homelessness that begins with an abused or neglected child. If that child is lucky enough to benefit from agency intervention before it is too late, they may continue in state custody for years. Many remain in state custody until they "age-out" of the system. From there, too many end up in jail, on the street, or "couch-surfing" with friends and relatives. Homeless by any other name is still homeless-- these young people begin their independent lives with the same barriers to productive citizenship that all homeless experience.

HB 126 offers simple, cost-effective help. By allowing a young person to voluntarily remain in state custody until their 21st birthday, it will keep them connected to the supportive services and educational opportunities critical to a successful transition to responsible adulthood.

Please support HB 126 and help ensure that fewer of our daycare kids return to us as homeless adults.

Sincerely 

Dan Austin, General Manager

(907) 321-5222



Rose Foley

From: Gail Tharpe-Lucero [gailtl@searhc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 3:34 PM
To: Rose Foley
Subject: HB 126 Support

Ms Foley,

This correspondence is written in support of HB 126 "An Act relating to extensions and resumptions of state custody of children; and providing for an effective date."

As a medical provider who provides health care to those experiencing homelessness, I first hand see the consequences that can result from children not having the support systems they need to transition into independence.

HB126 offers a cost-effective way to allow a young person to voluntarily remain in state custody until their 21st birthday.

This provides an avenue to connect them to supportive services and educational opportunities that are critical to a successful transition into adulthood.

Please support HB 126 to allow additional support systems to be put into place to help decrease the numbers of young people who end up homeless and on the streets without support systems and hope to turn this never ending spiral around.

Respectfully,
Gail Tharpe-Lucero, PA-C

--

Gail Tharpe-Lucero, PA-C
Medical Provider/Manager Front Street Clinic
Health Care for those experiencing Homelessness
225 Front Street, Suite 202
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-463-4201
907-463-6617 Fax

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. This communication may contain material protected by evidentiary privileges including the physician-patient privilege, psychotherapist-patient privilege, attorney-client privilege and federal privacy laws. If you are not the intended recipient or the individual responsible for delivering the e-mail to the intended recipient, please be advised that you have received this e-mail in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender by replying to this message. You may also notify SEARHC by telephone at (907) 966-8418. You will be reimbursed for reasonable costs incurred in notifying us.

Rose Foley

From: Joanne Wiita [jwiita@thrha.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 3:05 PM
To: Rose Foley

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

HB 126 offers simple, cost-effective help.

By allowing a young person to voluntarily remain in state custody until their 21st birthday, it will keep them connected to the supportive services and educational opportunities critical to a successful transition to responsible adulthood.

Please support HB 126 and help ensure that fewer of our daycare kids return to us as homeless adults.

Joanne Wiita
Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority
5446 Jenkins Dr
Juneau AK 99803
Tel 907 780 3158
Fax 907 780 6895
Email JWiita@THRHA.org

This E-mail is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510-2521 and is legally privileged. This information is confidential information and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited.

Rose Foley

From: Hallmark, Debra L (HSS) [debbie.hallmark@alaska.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2010 4:16 PM
To: Rose Foley
Subject: HB 126
Attachments: image001.png

I am a social worker in Dillingham and just heard about HB 126. How exciting!!!!!! This is wonderful news and a much needed change to our current system. I certainly hope that this passes for our children's sake.

Sincerely,

Debra Hallmark CSSII

P.O Box 1290

Dillingham, AK 99576

907/842-2341 Fax: 907/8425924



Safe Children, Strong Families ~ Strengthening Families, Keeping Children Safe, Decreasing Disproportionality, Quality & Stable Workforce, and Strengthening Community Partnerships
This email, including attachments, is intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain CONFIDENTIAL or privileged information that is protected by federal and state regulation. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or his or her agent, the reader is notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this email is prohibited. If you think you have received this email in error, please advise the sender by reply email and delete this email immediately.

Rose Foley

From: Ed Denton [aked@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2010 6:44 AM
To: Rose Foley
Subject: HB 126

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

If this bill passes it would have a positive impact on many young peoples lives. We all know that at ages 16 through 21 young people require (some more than others) additional support. This will mean the difference between sucess and failure for many of these young people after foster care.

I know that I want my children to be self sufficiant. However, it often takes a little extra time beyond the age of eighteen to figure it out. By forcing these young people (that will have additional baggage) out into society without this additional support, sets them up for failure.

As a parent of seven children and a lifelong Alaskan, I believe it is of utmost importance to provide this support to these young people to assist them in developing a more productive life.

I appreciate you support on this Bill.

Thank you

Ed Denton

Rose Foley

From: Linda Setterberg [linda.joelsplace@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2010 7:46 PM
To: Rose Foley; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Brodie Anderson; Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 105, HB 126

I am in favor of youth ages 16 and older being able to leave and reenter foster care until the age of 21. This bill has the potential to prevent youth homelessness in the state of Alaska. This is a great solution! Please support this bill. Linda

--
Linda Setterberg
Executive Director
Wellspring Revival Ministries
linda.joelsplace@gmail.com
www.joelsplacealaska.org
907-452-2621

We are to be fire, to weave our lives together so that Spirit's inferno of love spreads across the earth. - Claiborne

Rose Foley

From: Sam Bush [sam_i_am@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2010 4:50 PM
To: Rose Foley
Subject: HB126
Attachments: IndexStock-514287.jpg; 2.gif; stampa_girl_line_en.gif

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

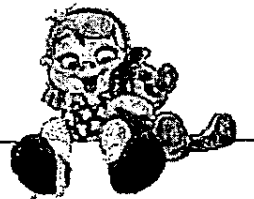
Wednesday

Ms. Rose Foley,

Please pass along my comments to whom ever they should go. I think that HB126 is long overdue. It is a much needed step in helping our youth in foster care, gain a better chance at success in life. Hopefully by having the extra years of family and help our youth will be able to better prepare themselves for life in the real world. Being cast into the world at age 18 with little or no higher education is not conducive to a successful, gainfully employable life. It is my hope that this bill goes on to become law.

Sincerely,

L. M. "Sam" Bush
P. O. Box 10298
Fairbanks, AK. 99710



FREE Animations for your email - by IncrediMail!

Click Here!