

**SB**

**27**

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 1/21/09

FURTHER: Labor and Commerce  
 Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
 IN TO OFFICE: 4/7/09

Health and Social Services Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 27

**SB 27 FOSTER CARE AGE LIMIT/TUITION WAIVER**

"An Act relating to tuition waivers for a child who was in foster care; relating to eligibility for foster care and subsidy payments for a hard-to-place child; and amending the definition of 'child' in certain statutes."

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS SB 27 (HSS)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
<b>HOUSE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet	Zero	FN#
DHS/csm	3/16	✓			1
DHS/FCBR	3/17	✓			2
DHS/FP	3/17	✓			3

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	ELLIS	✓			
	THOMAS	✓			
	RYAN			✓	
	PASKVAN	X			
CHAIR: <u>Betty Davis</u>	DAVIS	X			

# Alaska State Legislature

Interim: (May - Dec.)  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-0144  
Fax: (907) 269-0148



Session: (Jan. - May)  
State Capitol, Suite 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3822  
Fax: (907) 465-3756  
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us  
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

## Senator Bettye Davis

### Senate Bill 27

**"An Act relating to tuition waivers for a child who was in foster care; relating to eligibility for foster care and subsidy payments for a hard-to-place child; and amending the definition of 'child' in certain statutes."**

### Sponsor Statement

SB 27 provides waivers of tuition and fees combined with other assistance to help foster or out-of-home care children enjoy the opportunity and benefits of a higher education afforded to others. Recognizing the severe educational disadvantages of persons placed in foster care or out-of-home care, many states have initiated a variety of college tuition waiver and scholarship programs for these persons. The University of Alaska increased tuition waivers and additional assistance from five (5) to ten (10) students statewide who were in foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, but the need is much greater. Data in 2006 indicated that there are over 2,000 children in foster care in Alaska at any one time. Over 5,000 live in out-of-home care with relatives who are in a subsidized guardianship program. The average length of stay in foster care in Alaska was 25 months but only 40% of children had 2 or fewer placements.

Education has been shown in studies to be a significant factor in determining the success of children and youth as they exit the foster care system. Research measuring educational, social, and vocational outcomes for children and youth in foster care indicates that the majority of children who enter the protection of child welfare agencies do poorly in school due to instability in placements and changes in schools. The small number who have successfully finished high school and are eligible and qualified to attend college need financial support and other assistance to continue in school. Too often they "age out" of the foster care system at age 18 and wind up on the streets and in shelters.

A Casey Family Program study of 1,000 foster care youth found that youth who had one or fewer home placements per year were twice as likely to graduate from high school before leaving care. Additionally, it was found that:

- Less than **70%** of youth in foster care finish high school before leaving care.
- Children and youth in out-of-home care experience **1 or 2** placement changes per year on average.
- Students in foster care score **16 to 20** percentile points below others in statewide standardized tests (Washington State study).
- Only about **3%** obtain a bachelor's degree within a few years of emancipation.

Nationwide the Casey Foundation reports that every year more than 25,000 youth attempt to make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency as they reach age 18. Only half finish high school, and about 11 percent go on to college or vocational schools. Statistically, Alaska which regularly lags behind many other states in educational performance, provides far less assistance to persons in foster care to go to college. SB 27 should help many more deserving foster care and out-of-home care youth go to college and obtain undergraduate degrees.

# Alaska State Legislature

Interim: (May - Dec.)  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-0144  
Fax: (907) 269-0148



Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us  
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

## Senator Bettye Davis

### CSSB 27 ( ) "E" version, 26-LS0205\E

*Adopted 3/11 by committee*  
*No changes*

Session: (Jan. - May)  
State Capitol, Suite 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3822  
Fax: (907) 465-3756  
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

*3/27 - hear - NO ud*

**"An Act relating to tuition waivers for a child who was in out-of-home care; relating to out-of-home care for a child; amending the definition of 'child' in certain statutes; and relating to out-of-home care transition to independent living."**

The CS SB 27 ( ) "E" version It changes the definition of "foster care" to "out-of-home" care because so many relatives who are not licensed take care of children who are in "out-of-home" care. The bill extends eligibility for tuition waivers for a person in the foster care from 19 to 21, if the person was in foster care at age 16 for not less than 6 consecutive months and is in out-of home care at time of application. The bill subjects waivers of tuition to availability of funds by appropriation.

- Section 1.** Adds a new section, AS 14.43.086, entitling a person who was placed by the state in out-of-home care to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees in a state-supported school.
- Section 2.** Adds a cross reference to a definition for out-of home care for purposes of the tuition waiver.
- Section 3.** Changes "foster care to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the procurement code.
- Section 4.** Adds a cross reference to a definition for out-of-home care form medical assistance provision.
- Section 5.** Extends court orders to age 21 for a child committed to the custody of the department if they are placed in out of home care.
- Section 6.** Changes definition of "child" under AS 47.10.990(3) (child in need of aid) to include a person under 21 years of age living in out-of-home care.

- Section 7.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the child in need of aid statutes.
- Section 8.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the transition program to independent living.
- Section 9.** Changes "foster care" to "out of home care" form purposes of the transition program for children who are not less than age 18 living in out-of-home care, as defined.
- Section 10.** Adds children who were placed in out -of-home care to provide transition program services for the purpose of achieving self-sufficiency.
- Section 11.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home" care for purposed of the transition program definition .
- Section 12.** Adds a monetary stipend for children in the transition program for a specified period of time.
- Section 13.** Adds a cross reference to a definition for out-of-home care for purposes of the transition program.

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

March 10, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Sectional Summary (CSSB 27( )  
(Work Order No. 26-LS0205\E))

**TO:** Senator Bettye Davis  
Attn: Thomas Obermeyer

**FROM:** Jean M. Mischel  
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

**Section 1.** Adds a new section entitling a person who was placed by the state in out-of-home care to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees in a state-supported school.

**Section 2.** Adds a cross reference to a definition for out-of-home care for the tuition waiver.

**Section 3.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the procurement code.

**Section 4.** Adds a cross reference to a definition for out-of-home care for medical assistance provisions.

**Section 5.** Extends court orders to age 21 for a child committed to the custody of the department.

**Section 6.** Changes the definition of "child" under AS 47.10 (child in need of aid) to include a person under 21 years of age living in out-of-home care.

**Section 7.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the child in need of aid statutes.

Senator Bettye Davis  
March 10, 2009  
Page 2

**Section 8.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the transition program to independent living.

**Section 9.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the transition program for children who are not less than age 18 living in out-of-home care, as defined.

**Section 10.** Adds children who were placed in out-of-home care to provide transition program services for the purpose of achieving self-sufficiency.

**Section 11.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the transition program definition.

**Section 12.** Adds a monetary stipend for children in the transition program for a specified period of time.

**Section 13.** Adds a cross reference to a definition for out-of-home care for purposes of the transition program.

JMM:plm  
09-149.plm

26-LS0205VE  
Mischel  
3/5/09

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 27( )  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS DAVIS, Ellis

*Adopted 3/11  
by Comm. He  
No changes*

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to tuition waivers for a child who was in out-of-home care; relating to  
2 out-of-home care for a child; amending the definition of 'child' in certain statutes; and  
3 relating to out-of-home care transition to independent living."

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

5 \* Section 1. AS 14.43 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 Article 3A. Free Tuition for a Person Who Was in Out-of-home Care.

7 Sec. 14.43.086. Free tuition and fees for a person who was in out-of-home  
8 care. (a) A person who enrolls as a student in good standing in a state-supported  
9 educational institution in the state is entitled to a waiver of tuition, fees, and room and  
10 board expenses if the person provides adequate proof that the person

11 (1) was in the custody of the state under AS 47.10 or AS 47.14; and

12 (2) was placed in out-of-home care for a period of not less than six  
13 consecutive months on or after the person became 16 years of age.

14 (b) The amount of the waiver to which a person is entitled under this section is

1 the amount of unmet need for tuition, room, and board expenses, as determined by the  
2 commission after deducting all available funding for the school year from education  
3 loans, grants, or scholarships for a person eligible for a waiver.

4 (c) The proceeds of an education loan, grant, or scholarship received by a  
5 person eligible for a waiver under this section must be paid to the educational  
6 institution to offset the person's tuition, fees, and room and board expenses.

7 (d) A state-supported educational institution in the state is required to provide  
8 a waiver under (a) of this section only if the legislature appropriates funds for the  
9 purpose of offsetting waivers under this section. If an appropriation is not sufficient to  
10 fully offset waivers for each person entitled to a waiver under (a) of this section, the  
11 institution may offer full or partial waivers to eligible applicants as funding permits  
12 and at the discretion of the institution.

13 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.43.160 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

14 (7) "out-of-home care" has the meaning given in AS 47.14.400.

15 \* Sec. 3. AS 36.30.850(b)(42) is amended to read:

16 (42) grants and contracts with qualified entities for services under  
17 AS 47.18.330 for the out-of-home [FOSTER] care transition program;

18 \* Sec. 4. AS 47.07.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 (o) In this section, "out-of-home care" has the meaning given in AS 47.14.400.

20 \* Sec. 5. AS 47.10.080(c) is amended to read:

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

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

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

29 (B) one-year extensions of commitment that do not extend  
30 beyond the child's 21st birthday [AN ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR PERIOD  
31 OF STATE CUSTODY PAST 19 YEARS OF AGE] if the continued state

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

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

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

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

23 \* Sec. 6. AS 47.10.990(3) is amended to read:

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

25 (A) under 18 years of age;

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

29 (C) under 21 years of age if that person is living in out-of-  
 30 home care;

31 \* Sec. 7. AS 47.10.990 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

1 (33) "out-of-home care" has the meaning given in AS 47.14.400.

2 \* Sec. 8. AS 47.18.300(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) The department, in coordination with local public and private agencies,  
4 shall design, develop, and implement an out-of-home care [A FOSTER CARE]  
5 transition program to provide support and services to individuals who

6 (1) reach or have reached the age of 16 or older while in state custody  
7 and placed in out-of-home [FOSTER] care and have not yet reached 23 years of age;  
8 and

9 (2) meet other eligibility criteria established by the department under  
10 (b) of this section.

11 \* Sec. 9. AS 47.18.310 is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 47.18.310. Program design.** The department, in coordination with local  
13 public and private agencies, shall design the program as a continuation of the training  
14 efforts related to independent living skills that were initiated for a child in state  
15 custody who was placed in out-of-home care and [WHEN THE STATE FOSTER  
16 CARE RECIPIENTS WERE] identified as being likely to remain in out-of-home  
17 [STATE FOSTER] care until reaching not less than the age of 18. The program  
18 design must require that program participants are directly involved in identifying the  
19 program activities that will prepare them for independent living.

20 \* Sec. 10. AS 47.18.320(a) is amended to read:

21 (a) Subject to the availability of an appropriation made for the purposes of  
22 AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390, the program may provide

- 23 (1) education and vocational training;
- 24 (2) assistance in obtaining basic education and training;
- 25 (3) career and employment services;
- 26 (4) training in basic life skills;
- 27 (5) housing and utility assistance;
- 28 (6) mentoring and counseling; and
- 29 (7) other appropriate services to complement the efforts of former state  
30 foster care recipients or a child who was in state custody and placed in out-of-  
31 home care to achieve self-sufficiency.

1 \* Sec. 11. AS 47.18.390(1) is amended to read:

2 (1) "program" means the out-of-home [FOSTER] care transition  
3 program authorized under AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390;

4 \* Sec. 12. AS 47.18 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 47.18.335. Monetary living expense stipend.** The department shall  
6 provide to an individual eligible for services under the program who has left out-of-  
7 home care a monthly stipend in an amount set by the department that is not more than  
8 the daily rate provided to a licensed foster parent for necessary living expenses. The  
9 stipend shall continue for a period of not more than one year and shall end before the  
10 individual is 23 years of age. The department may adopt regulations to implement this  
11 section.

12 \* Sec. 13. AS 47.18.390(3) is repealed and reenacted to read:

13 (3) "out-of-home care" has the meaning given in AS 47.14.400.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version: CSSB027(HSS)  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): SB027CS(HSS)-DHSS-CSM-3-17-09 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services  
Title: Foster Care Age Limit/Tuition Waiver RDU: Children's Services  
Component: Children's Services Management  
Sponsor: Davis  
Requester: Senate HSS Component Number: 2666

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual	204.2		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>204.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**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								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>204.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The intent of CS SB 027 is to address the educational, financial, and housing challenges that face youth as they transition out of foster care, and to support those care providers who are willing to help them during that period of transition.

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. The following provides the estimated cost of ORCA updates that will be required to implement this bill.

(continued on next page)

Prepared by: Tammy Sandoval, Director Phone 465-3191  
Division: Office of Children's Services Date/Time 3/16/09 12:00 AM  
Approved by: Alison Elgee, Assistant Commissioner Date 3/17/2009  
DHSS Finance & Management Services

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB027(HSS)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Requirement	Functional LOE (hours)	Development LOE (hours)	Total LOE (hours)	Cost
Update Services page for new services.	120	80	200	\$22,000.00
Update Education page with post-secondary educational institutions.	80	60	140	\$15,400.00
Update OHP for unlicensed independent living service categories and service types.	120	80	200	\$22,000.00
Update OHP for licensed service categories and service types over 18.	120	100	220	\$24,200.00
Update Ref Value for age change from 18 to 21	80	60	140	\$15,400.00
Update Eligibility page calculations for new age requirement.	180	160	340	\$37,400.00
Update Medicaid Eligibility page calculations for new page	180	160	340	\$37,400.00
Visitation Report	40	36	76	\$8,360.000
Batch updates for OHP and Eligibility	40	160	200	\$22,000.00
Days:	960/8 = 120 days	896/8 = 112 days	1856/8 = 232 total days	Total Estimate \$204,160.00

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version: CSSB027(HSS)  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): SB027CS(HSS)-DHSS-FP 3-17-09 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services  
Title: Foster Care Age Limit/Tuition Waiver RDU: Office of Children's Services  
Component: Family Preservation  
Sponsor: Davis  
Requester: Senate HSS Component Number: 1628

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims	4,833.1		1,907.8	1,907.8	1,907.8	1,907.8	1,907.8	1,907.8
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>4,833.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts			238.4	316.5	316.5	316.5	316.5
1003 GF Match			1,669.4	1,591.3	1,591.3	1,591.3	1,591.3
1004 GF	4,833.1						
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,833.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>	<b>1,907.8</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The intent of CSSB27 is to address the educational, financial and housing challenges that face youth as the transition out of foster care and to support foster care providers who are willing to help youth during that period of transition.

CSSB 27, as it relates to the Department of Health and Social Services Office of Children's Services, amends AS 47.10.080(c) to provide the court the authority to commit a child to placement to age 21 if in the best interest of the youth and the youth is in agreement; amends AS 47.10.990(3) by further defining a child to include youth under 21 years of age if that youth is living in out-of-home care; and expands the current Foster Care Transition Program (AS 47.18.300-390) to include children in state custody who were placed in out-of-home care and (continued on next page)

Prepared by: Tammy Sandoval, Director Phone: 465-3191  
Division: Office of Children's Services Date/Time: 3/16/09 12:00 AM

Approved by: Alison Elgee, Assistant Commissioner Date: 3/17/2009  
DHSS Finance & Management Services

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB027(HSS)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

identified as likely to remain in out-of-home care until age 18; and allows for a one-year monetary living expense stipend to eligible youth who have left out-of-home care up to age 23. This fiscal note addresses increased costs related to the one-year monetary living expense stipend to eligible youth up to age 23 who have left out-of-home care.

The OCS, lacking historical data or comparative program results, has made the following assumptions and applied them to this fiscal note:

- 1) The monetary stipend will be made available to youth age 18 to 23 who leave out-of-home care at any time during that age span.
- 2) The monetary stipend is not tied to post secondary education.
- 3) The number of youth who age out of foster care will remain somewhat stagnant at about 110 youth annually;
- 4) Assumes that 70% of youth ages 18 to 23 who are eligible to participate in the Independent Living Program (IL) will make use of the monetary stipends in FY2010. This equates to approximately 380 full time equivalents (FTEs) who will become eligible, resulting in higher program costs the first year the stipend is available. FTEs are used to account for the constant change in the population as more youth turn 18 to 23 and move on and off the program at varying rates.
- 5) The out years will lose children aging out of foster care and pick up new youth between ages 19 and 23 who have not yet utilized the program, still maintaining the assumption that 70% will eventually utilize the program. There is no available data or program results upon which to base these assumptions.
- 6) Calculations are based on 360 days at an average daily rate of \$35.33;  $\$35.33 \times 30 = \$1,060/\text{month}$ .
- 7) Currently, federal reimbursement for the extension of the IL program is not available. However, the Adoption and Guardianship Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 includes the option to enhance the program. This fiscal note assumes that option can be implemented when available, October 1, 2010, and therefore is available for the final three quarters of FY2011 forward, only.
- 8) The foster care penetration rate and the Medical Assistance Percentage Rate will remain somewhat stable over the time period of this fiscal note.

	FFP	IL FTE	MOS FC/FTE	TOTAL EXP	Federal	GF
SFY 2010	0.00%	380	\$1,060	\$4,833,144	\$0	\$4,833,144
SFY2011	12.50%	150	\$1,060	\$1,907,820	\$238,414	\$1,669,406
SFY2012	16.59%	150	\$1,060	\$1,907,820	\$316,546	\$1,591,274
SFY2013	16.59%	150	\$1,060	\$1,907,820	\$316,546	\$1,591,274
SFY2014	16.59%	150	\$1,060	\$1,907,820	\$316,546	\$1,591,274
SFY2015	16.59%	150	\$1,060	\$1,907,820	\$316,546	\$1,591,274

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version: CSSB027(HSS)  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): SB027CS(HSS)-DHSS-FCBR 3-17-09 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services  
Title: Foster Care Age Limit/Tuition Waiver RDU: Office of Children's Services  
Component: Foster Care Base Rate  
Sponsor: Davis  
Requester: Senate HSS Component Number: 2236

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	Appropriation Required	Information					
	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims	725.0		445.2	445.2	445.2	445.2	445.2
Miscellaneous							
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>725.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>445.2</b>	<b>445.2</b>	<b>445.2</b>	<b>445.2</b>	<b>445.2</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>							
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (</b>							
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts			55.6	73.9	73.9	73.9	73.9
1003 GF Match			389.6	371.3	371.3	371.3	371.3
1004 GF	725.0						
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>725.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>445.2</b>	<b>445.2</b>	<b>445.2</b>	<b>445.2</b>	<b>445.2</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

CSSB 27, as it relates to the Department of Health and Social Services Office of Children's Services, amends AS 47.10.080(c) to provide the court the authority to commit a child to placement to age 21 if in the best interest of the youth and the youth is in agreement; amends AS 47.10.990(3) by further defining a child to include youth under 21 years of age if that youth is living in out-of-home care; and expands the current Foster Care Transition Program (AS 47.18.300-390) to include children in state custody who were placed in out-of-home care and identified to likely remain in out-of-home care until age 18; and allows for a one-year monetary living expense stipend to eligible youth who have left out-of-home care up to age 23. This fiscal note addresses increased foster care base rate reimbursements to providers for youth who remain in out-of-home care as defined by CSSB 27.  
(continued on next page)

Prepared by: Tammy Sandoval, Director Phone 465-3191  
Division: Office of Children's Services Date/Time 3/16/09 12:00 AM  
Approved by: Alison Elgee, Assistant Commissioner Date 3/17/2009  
DHSS Finance & Management Services

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB027(HSS)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

The OCS, lacking historical data or comparative program results, has made the following assumptions and applied them to this fiscal note:

- 1) Foster care reimbursement payments will be made available to foster parents who provide care for youth who remain in the custody of the state beyond age 18 to age 21;
- 2) The choice made by youth in custody to remain in custody after age 18 is not tied to post secondary education;
- 3) Youth who are between the ages of 18 and 21 and were in state custody will not re-enter foster care;
- 4) The number of youth who age out of foster care will remain somewhat stagnant at about 110 youth annually;
- 5) It is assumed that many of the youth who decide to stay in foster care will be interested in post secondary education.
- 6) It is assumed that the percent of youth who choose to stay in foster care will decline as they age; at which point the youth will instead chose the option for a monetary stipend.
- 7) Calculations are based on 360 days per year, at an average daily rate of \$35.33, using full time equivalents (FTEs) to account for the constant change in the population as youth turn 18, 19, and 20 and move on and off the program at varying rates.  $\$35.33/\text{day} \times 30 = \$1,060/\text{mo} \times 12 \text{ months} = \$12,720/\text{year}$ .
- 8) FTEs were estimated based on assuming that 15% of the youth in foster care will decide to remain in their foster homes when they reach 18 (17 individuals); 10% when they reach 19 (11 individuals); and 5% when they reach 20 (5 individuals); for a total of 33 youths in FY2010.
- 9) In addition to the 33 youth who choose to remain in foster care in FY2010, the OCS estimates that 24 additional children with special needs will want to remain in foster care in FY2010. Approximately 18 special needs children age out of foster care annually. Currently about 6 of the 18 are placed annually in extended care by the courts. While there is no statistical data to support the assumption that youth with special needs will chose to remain in foster care, the OCS believes that during FY2010, the ability for these youth currently age 17, 18, and 19 to agree to stay in care will be encouraged by foster parents, guardians ad litem, and the courts. The OCS projects that 12 of those youth will remain in foster care when they turn 18; 6 will remain when they turn 19; and 6 will remain when they turn 20; for a total of 24 youths with special needs in FY2010.
- 10) In FY2010, 33 youth will decided to stay in foster care, many of whom will seek post secondary education and 24 children with special needs will be encouraged to remain in foster care in order to receive the services they require, bringing the total number of youth to 57.

(continued on next page)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB027(HSS)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

11) The OCS believes that after the first year of implementation when those youth currently age 17, 18, and 19 are brought into the program, out years will stabilize at 35 as the OCS, the courts, guardians ad litem, foster families and youth better prepare to take advantage of free tuition and costs as well as the monetary stipend. There is no data or comparative program information available to support this assumption.

12) Currently, federal reimbursement for the extension of the foster program is not available. However, the Adoption and Guardianship Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 includes the option to extend the assistance age through 20. This fiscal note assumes that option will be implemented when available, October 1, 2010, and therefore is available for the final three quarters of FY2011 forward, only.

13) The foster care penetration rate and the Medical Assistance Percentage Rate will remain somewhat stable over the time period of this fiscal note.

Fiscal Year	FTEs	AGES	Annual Cost per/FTE	Est. FFP	Total Annual Est. Cost	Federal Funds	General Funds
2010	57	18,19	\$12,720	0.00%	\$725,029	\$0	\$725,029
2011	35	18,19,20	\$12,720	12.50%	\$445,193	\$55,635	\$389,558
2012	35	18,19,20	\$12,720	16.59%	\$445,193	\$73,868	\$371,325
2013	35	18,19,20	\$12,720	16.59%	\$445,193	\$73,868	\$371,325
2014	35	18,19,20	\$12,720	16.59%	\$445,193	\$73,868	\$371,325
2015	35	18,19,20	\$12,720	16.59%	\$445,193	\$73,868	\$371,325

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101


State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

March 10, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Sectional Summary (CSSB 27( )  
(Work Order No. 26-LS0205E))

**TO:** Senator Bettye Davis  
Attn: Thomas Obermeyer

**FROM:** Jean M. Mischel  
Legislative Counsel 

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

**Section 1.** Adds a new section entitling a person who was placed by the state in out-of-home care to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees in a state-supported school.

**Section 2.** Adds a cross reference to a definition for out-of-home care for the tuition waiver.

**Section 3.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the procurement code.

**Section 4.** Adds a cross reference to a definition for out-of-home care for medical assistance provisions.

**Section 5.** Extends court orders to age 21 for a child committed to the custody of the department.

**Section 6.** Changes the definition of "child" under AS 47.10 (child in need of aid) to include a person under 21 years of age living in out-of-home care.

**Section 7.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the child in need of aid statutes.

Senator Bettye Davis

March 10, 2009

Page 2

**Section 8.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the transition program to independent living.

**Section 9.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the transition program for children who are not less than age 18 living in out-of-home care, as defined.

**Section 10.** Adds children who were placed in out-of-home care to provide transition program services for the purpose of achieving self-sufficiency.

**Section 11.** Changes "foster care" to "out-of-home care" for purposes of the transition program definition.

**Section 12.** Adds a monetary stipend for children in the transition program for a specified period of time.

**Section 13.** Adds a cross reference to a definition for out-of-home care for purposes of the transition program.

JMM:plm  
09-149.plm

CS SB 27

Needs Fiscal  
Notes

Interim: (May - Dec.)  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-0148  
Fax: (907) 269-0148

Session: (Jan. - May)  
State Capitol, Suite 300  
Anchorage, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3822  
Fax: (907) 465-3756  
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

3/11  
Request  
2/19

CS for Senate Bill 27() 26-LS0205R

"An Act relating to tuition waivers for a child who was in out-of-home care; relating to eligibility for out-of-home care payments for a child; and amending the definition of 'child' in certain statutes."

Explanation of Committee Substitute

The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 27 **narrowed the scope of the original bill** to include a) only those persons living under state custody in foster care or out-of-home care; b) who are under age 23; and c) who are presently enrolled as students in good standing. **It did not**, as the former bill indicated, **extend subsidies** to all foster care or out-of-home care persons ages 18-23 who may have aged out of the foster care system and are no longer under custody of the department or full-time students.

# Alaska State Legislature

Interim: (May - Dec.)  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-0144  
Fax: (907) 269-0148



Session: (Jan. - May)  
State Capitol, Suite 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3822  
Fax: (907) 465-3756  
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

Senator [Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Bettye.Davis@legis.state.ak.us)  
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

## Senator Bettye Davis

### CS for Senate Bill 27( ) 26-LS0205\R

**“An Act relating to tuition waivers for a child who was in out-of-home care; relating to eligibility for out-of-home care payments for a child; and amending the definition of ‘child’ in certain statutes.”**

### Sponsor Statement

The Committee Substitute (CS) for Senate Bill 27( ) adds a new section entitling a person who was placed by the state in foster or out-of-home care to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees in a state-supported school if the person is under 23 years of age, is living in out-of-home care, and enrolls as a student in good standing. The CS also changes the definition of “child,” or child in need of aid or delinquent minor under AS 47.10 and 47.12 respectively, to include a person under 23 years of age living in out-of-home care. The hope is that the waiver of tuition and fees provided by CS SB 27 combined with other assistance in scholarships, mentoring, and in life skills without parental support will help level the playing field for out-of-home care children who deserve the opportunity and benefits of a higher education afforded to others.

Recognizing the severe educational disadvantages of persons placed in foster care or out-of-home care, many states have initiated a variety of college tuition waiver and scholarship programs for these persons. **Only recently the University of Alaska increased tuition waivers and additional assistance from five (5) to ten (10) students statewide who were in foster care in the state of Alaska on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.** The need is much greater. Data in 2006 indicated that there are over 2,000 children in foster care in Alaska at any one time. Over 5,000 live with relative care givers who are in a subsidized guardianship program. The average length of state in foster care in Alaska was 25 months but only 40% of children had 2 or fewer placements.

Education has been shown in studies to be a significant factor in determining the success of children and youth as they exit the foster care system. Research measuring educational, social, and vocational outcomes for children and youth in foster care indicate that the majority of children who enter the protection of child welfare agencies do poorly in school due to instability in placements and changes in schools. The small number who have successfully finished high school and are eligible and qualified to attend college need financial support and other assistance to continue in school. Too often they “age out” of the foster care system at age 18 and wind up on the streets and in shelters.

A Casey Family Program study of 1,000 foster care youth found that youth who had one or fewer home placements per year were twice as likely to graduate from high school before leaving care. Additionally, it was found that:

- Less than **70%** of youth in foster care finish high school before leaving care.
- Children and youth in out-of-home care experience **1 or 2** placement changes per year on average.
- Students in foster care score **16 to 20** percentile points below others in statewide standardized tests (Washington State study).
- Only about **3%** obtain a bachelor's degree within a few years of emancipation.

Nationwide the Casey Foundation reports that every year more than 25,000 youth attempt to make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency as they reach age 18. Only half finish high school, and about 11 percent go on to college or vocational schools. Statistically, Alaska which regularly lags behind many other states in educational performance, provides foster care persons far less assistance in going to college. The CS SB 27 should help many more deserving and qualified foster care or out-of-home care youth obtain undergraduate degrees.

# Alaska State Legislature

*Interim: (May - Dec.)*  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-0144  
Fax: (907) 269-0148



*Session: (Jan. - May)*  
State Capitol, Suite 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3822  
Fax: (907) 465-3756  
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us  
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

## Senator Bettye Davis

CS for Senate Bill 27() 26-LS0205\R

“An Act relating to tuition waivers for a child who was in out-of-home care; relating to eligibility for out-of-home care payments for a child; and amending the definition of ‘child’ in certain statutes.”

### Explanation of Committee Substitute

---

The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 27 **narrowed the scope of the original bill** to include a) only those persons living under state custody in foster care or out-of-home care; b) who are under age 23; and c) who are presently enrolled as students in good standing. **It did not**, as the former bill indicated, **extend subsidies** to all foster care or out-of-home care persons ages 18-23 who may have aged out of the foster care system and are no longer under custody of the department or full-time students.



Handwritten text, possibly a signature or initials, oriented vertically. The characters are stylized and difficult to decipher, but appear to include 'F', 'H', 'W', and 'O'.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14

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

(C) under 23 years of age if that person is

(i) in the custody of the department;

(ii) currently placed in out-of-home care; and

(iii) a full-time student.

\* Sec. 3. AS 47.14.990 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(13) "child" means a person under

(A) 18 years of age; and

(B) 23 years of age if the person is

(i) in the custody of the department;

(ii) currently placed in out-of-home care; and

(iii) a full-time student.

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101


State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

January 30, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Sectional Summary (CSSB 27( )); Work Order No. 26-LS0205\R)

**TO:** Senator Bettye Davis  
Attn: Tom Obermeyer

**FROM:** Jean M. Mischel  
Legislative Counsel 

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.


As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

**Section 1.** Adds a new section entitling a person who was placed by the state in out-of-home care to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees in a state-supported school.

**Section 2.** Changes the definition of "child" under AS 47.10 (child in need of aid) to include a person under 23 years of age living in out-of-home care.

**Section 3.** Changes the definition of "child" under AS 47.12 (delinquent minors) to include a person under 23 years of age living in out-of-home care.

JMM:ljw  
09-051.ljw



**Lynda Zaugg**

---

**From:** Laughlin, Wilda J (HSS) [wilda.laughlin@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2009 12:52 PM  
**To:** Lynda Zaugg; Jake Hamburg  
**Subject:** SB 133

Just wanted to let you know that Bill Streur, Deputy Commissioner for Medicaid and Health Care Policy, will be testifying for HSS on SB 133 in Senate HSS today.

Wilda Laughlin, DHSS Legislative Liaison  
Juneau: 907-465-1613  
Cell: 907-723-3802

Will be calling in

---

Dyson - No  
Ellis - yes  
Paskvan  
Thomas - has fin -

Note:

Both Ellis & Thomas have bills up  
in fin @ 2:30

**Lynda Zaugg**

---

**From:** Thomas Obermeyer  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2009 3:09 PM  
**To:** mike.lesmann@alaska.gov; Don Burrell; Sen. Bettye Davis; Lynda Zaugg  
**Subject:** FW: Request by OCS staff for appointment this week with Sen Davis regarding SB 27, Tuition Waiver, Foster Care

January 26, 2009

Mr. Lesman,

I would be happy to meet with you and Ms. Sandoval on short notice at almost any time for a few minutes, but if you have specific concerns about the wording of SB 27 or any other issues related to this bill or others, please first forward them in writing and/or by e-mail, so I can incorporate them in my work product, files, and discussions with you as legislation progresses.

Tom Obermeyer  
 465-3762  
[Thomas\\_Obermeyer@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Thomas_Obermeyer@legis.state.ak.us)

---

**From:** Don Burrell  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2009 2:41 PM  
**To:** Thomas Obermeyer  
**Subject:** RE: Request by OCS staff for appointment this week with Sen Davis regarding SB 27, Tuition Waiver, Foster Care

I have already spoke with Mike and informed him that he could coordinate with you to meet with you individually this week sometime because the Senator cannot except anymore appointments on Wednesday or Thursday of this week. You can meet with them on your own, but I cannot schedule them to meet with the Senator this week.

**Don Burrell Jr.**  
*Legislative Aide*  
**Office of Senator Bettye Davis**  
 State Capitol Building, Rm. 30  
 Juneau, Alaska 99801  
 P 907-465-3822  
 F 907-465-3756  
[don\\_burrell@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:don_burrell@legis.state.ak.us)

---

**From:** Thomas Obermeyer  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2009 2:39 PM  
**To:** Don Burrell; Sen. Bettye Davis; Lynda Zaugg  
**Cc:** mike.lesmann@alaska.gov  
**Subject:** Request by OCS staff for appointment this week with Sen Davis regarding SB 27, Tuition Waiver, Foster Care

Don Burrell, 465-3822 -

Mike Lesmann, Program Coordinator and legislative liaison for OCS left me a voice-mail message today requesting an appointment with Senator Davis on Wednesday or Thursday this week including him, his

supervisor Tammy Sandoval, and perhaps me, concerning SB 27, Foster care Tuition Waiver.

I noted Senator Davis has a very busy schedule this week, but since you are the gate-keeper of her appointments, could you please see what time may be arranged with Mr. Lesmann and Ms. Sandoval and give Mr. Lesmann a call? Mr. Lesmann's phone is 465-3548. Please advise of an agreed time.

Tom Obermeyer  
465-3762

## Rally spotlights foster kid needs

**IDEAS: Braces, tuition waivers, longer health benefits advocated.**

By LISA DEMER  
ldemer@adn.com

(09/30/08 23:31:47)

Alaska foster kids and former foster kids rallied Tuesday to put attention on their agenda for improved college opportunities, better health benefits and help with housing as they leave foster care.

The event took place across the street from the state Office of Children's Services downtown, and some state workers stood alongside the kids, said Amanda Metivier, president of the advocacy group Facing Foster Care in Alaska. About 20 people, including state Rep. Les Gara, who grew up in foster care, took part, she said.

"We're rallying around our policy agenda," said Metivier, a former foster child who will graduate in December with a social work degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

The group's efforts are powerful and could make a difference, said Tammy Sandoval, director of the state Office of Children's Services.

"I am thrilled that they have come together and have found their voice to help OCS and legislators and other policy makers to help get their needs known and out," Sandoval said.

The group wants tuition waivers for all former foster children at the University of Alaska instead of a limited number a year, which just increased from five to 10 statewide, Metivier said. Studies show that only about 1 percent of former foster kids now graduate with a four-year college degree or vocational certificate, the group says.

The foster care group also wants more help for kids as they reach adulthood. For one, the group says Alaska kids should be able to receive state support until age 21, even if they live on their own. Some states allow that, the group says, and Alaska needs to be more creative. Too many former foster kids end up on the streets and in shelters, Metivier said.

"This summer has been terrible. We've had so many homeless youth," Metivier said.

The foster care group would also like to see Medicaid coverage extend to former foster children until age 21. And they want Medicaid to pay for braces for foster youth, which is currently not the case.

In coming up with their agenda, the foster youth and former foster kids "brainstormed all these ideas. But the braces were No. 1. It's a self-esteem thing," Metivier said.

The foster care group did its homework, Sandoval said. Now it's up to OCS, legislators and others to study the proposals and see what could work here, she said. Some things already are improving. Sandoval mentioned a bill that passed last year allows churches, private groups, businesses and individuals to create college savings accounts for foster kids.

## Alaska's Children <sub>1</sub>

Child Population	183,355
Children Living in Poverty	26,623
Child Poverty Rate	14.5%

## Child Abuse and Neglect <sub>2</sub>

Child Victims Data Unavailable

Type of Abuse and Neglect	Percent*
Neglect and Medical Neglect	Data Unavailable
Physical Abuse	Data Unavailable
Sexual Abuse	Data Unavailable
Psychological and Other Maltreatment	Data Unavailable

\*Percentages may not total 100% because abuse or neglect can be reported in one or more categories.

## Foster Care <sub>3</sub>

Number of Children in Foster Care*	2,040	Average Length of Stay in Foster Care	25.1 mos.
Children with 2 or Fewer Placements	40%	Abused and Neglected While in Care	Data Unavailable

\*Foster care includes family foster care, group care and institutional care

## Permanency <sub>4</sub>

Number of Exits from Foster Care 781

Type of Exit	Percent
Adoption	22.5%
Reunification	66.7%
Legal Guardianship	4.1%
Other	3.5%
Missing Data	3.2%

Percent of Children Reunified

Within 0-11 months	58.7%
Within 12-23 months	29.8%
After 24 months	11.1%

Percent of Children Adopted

Within 0-11 months	6.8%
Within 12-23 months	17.0%
After 24 months	76.1%

Number of Children Waiting for Adoption 639

## Relative Caregivers <sub>5</sub>

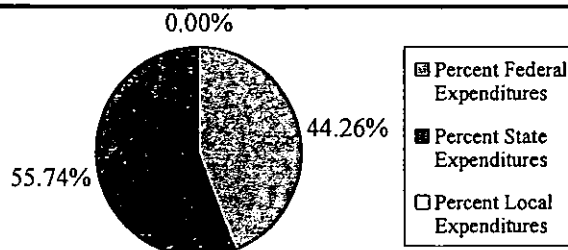
Number of Children Living with Relatives  
 Without Either Parent Present  
 (not necessarily in foster care) 5,110

Subsidized Guardianship Program? Yes

*Subsidized guardianship programs make it possible for eligible children to live permanently in the care of a legal guardian who has agreed to provide a safe and loving home for them and who receives ongoing payments to help provide for the needs of the child. In many cases, the child's guardian is a relative or a close family friend.*

## Sources of Child Welfare Spending <sup>6</sup>

FY 2004	Amount
Federal Expenditures	\$37,786,604
State Expenditures	\$47,581,700
Local Expenditures	\$0
Total	\$85,368,304



## Major Federal Child Welfare Spending <sup>6</sup>

FY 2004	Amount	Percent of Total Federal Spending
Title IV-B	\$1,081,499	2.86%
Title IV-E	\$20,441,777	54.1%
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$7,042,600	18.64%
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	\$0	0%
Medicaid (Excludes Medicaid expenditures for routine health care services provided to children in foster care.)	\$7,008,813	18.55%

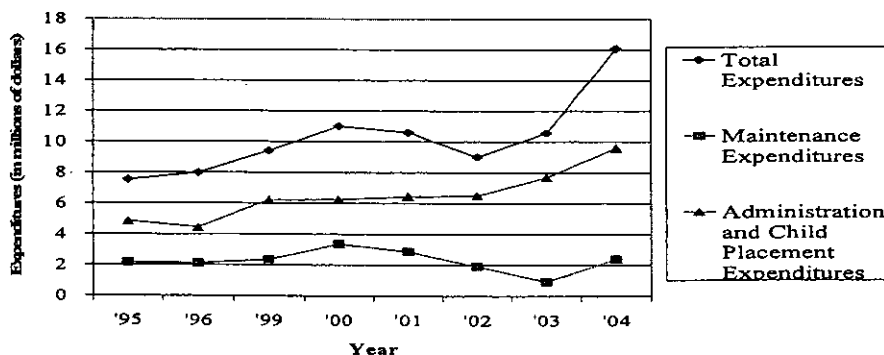
Percentages may not total 100% because some states could not categorize all federal spending by source. The previous version of this fact sheet contained information on spending from SSL. The Urban Institute did not collect that data in the most recent survey.

## Federal Title IV-E Spending <sup>7</sup>

Foster Care Expenditures FY 2004			Adoption Assistance Expenditures FY 2004		
Type	Amount	Percent	Type	Amount	Percent
Maintenance Payments	\$2,389,921	14.87%	Adoption Assistance Payments	\$6,365,459	91.27%
Administration and Child Placement Services	\$9,586,594	59.64%	Administration	\$596,641	8.55%
SACWIS	\$3,314,715	20.62%	Training	\$12,411	0.18%
Training	\$781,653	4.86%	Total	\$6,974,511	
Total	\$16,072,883				

- ◆ In 2003, 190 (9.31%)\* Children in Foster Care Received Title IV-E Funded Foster Care Payments
- ◆ In 2002, 995 (85.63%)\*\* Children Adopted from Foster Care Received IV-E Funded Adoption Assistance Payments

## Federal Title IV-E Foster Care Spending 1995-2004



\*Average monthly number of children receiving federal foster care divided by the number of children in foster care on the last day of the year.

\*\*Average monthly number of children receiving federal adoption assistance divided by the total number of children receiving adoption assistance at a point in time.

### Sources and Notes

\*All data provided are most current available as of September 2006.

- 1) United States Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey, Summary Table S1701. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months Calculations by CDF, August 2006
- 2) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Children's Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2004* (Washington, D.C.; Government Printing Office, 2006) Tables 3-2 and 3-5
- 3) The number of children in foster care is the number in foster care on Sept. 30, 2003: U.S. DHHS, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Annual Report* (Washington D.C.; Government Printing Office, September 2006), Context Data Chart C, Length of stay and placement data (2001): U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, 2004 Greenbook (Washington, D.C.; Government Printing Office, 2004) Charts 11-38 & 11-36; and abuse and neglect data (2003): U.S. DHHS, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Annual Report* (Washington D.C.; Government Printing Office, September 2006), Table 2.1
- 4) *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Annual Report*, Tables 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, and Context Data Chart D
- 5) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *2000 Census American Fact Finder Advanced Query*. Calculations by CDF of the number of children living in relative-headed households without either parent present; and CDF *States' Subsidized Guardianship Laws At A Glance* (Washington, D.C.; CDF, 2006).
- 6) Cynthia Andrews Scarcella, Roseana Bess, Erica Hecht Zielewski, and Rob Geen. *The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children V: Understanding State Variation in Child Welfare Financing* (Washington, D.C.; The Urban Institute, 2006).
- 7) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Expenditure Data for FYs 2000-2004; U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Greenbook: 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2004; and Ursula Gilmore and Elizabeth Oppenheim, Interstate Movement of Children Receiving Adoption Assistance (Wash, D.C.; American Public Human Services Association, 2003).

For more information please contact [conway@clasp.org](mailto:conway@clasp.org) (202-906-8031) or [jchang@childrensdefense.org](mailto:jchang@childrensdefense.org) (202-662-3629)

## Why Focus on Foster Care and Education?

For the over **800,000** children and youth served in foster care each year in the United States, education is a potential positive counterweight to abuse, neglect, separation, impermanence and instability.

Positive school experiences enhance their well-being, help them make more successful transitions to adulthood, and increase their chances for personal fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency, as well as their ability to contribute to society.

Education should be approached as an integral part of permanency rather than as a choice between permanency and education.

Studies have shown that education is a significant factor in determining the success of youth as they exit the foster care system and beyond.

When the focus is on education, the results are improved educational performance, fewer behavior problems, lower drop-out rates, and more successful transitions to employment and higher education.



## Facts and Figures\*

- Less than **70%** of youth in foster care finish high school before leaving care.
- Children and youth in out-of-home care experience **1 or 2** placement changes per year on average.
- Students in foster care score **16 to 20** percentile points below others in statewide standardized tests (Washington State study).
- Only about **3%** obtain a bachelor's degree within a few years of emancipation.

\*Visit [www.casey.org/friendsandfamilies/partners](http://www.casey.org/friendsandfamilies/partners) for fact sheet citations.

## The National Working Group on Foster Care and Education

The mission of the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education is to ensure successful educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care across the country.

This partnership has grown out of the recognition that only through collaboration can practice, policy, and cultural changes take place that will support educational stability and achievement as priorities in the lives of children and youth in care.

The Working Group is committed to heightening awareness of the educational needs of children and youth in care and to promoting best and promising practices and reforms across the education, child welfare, and court systems.

### The Working Group's goals are to promote:

- Educational stability for children and youth in foster care
- Seamless educational transitions for children and youth when education changes do occur
- High quality educational experiences, expectations and aspirations for young people in foster care
- Greater national attention to the disparate educational outcomes for young people in foster care, particularly youth of color

American Bar Association Center for Children and the Law/National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues  
American Public Human Services Association  
Casey Family Programs  
Child Welfare League of America  
Education Law Center—PA  
Juvenile Law Center  
National CASA Association  
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
National Foster Parent Association

Come See What's New! Visit the all new [Family Forums](#), [Parenting Forums](#) and [Pregnancy Forums](#) Today.

## College Tuition Waiver and Scholarship Programs

A significant post adoptive service offered by states is the waiver or payment of college tuition on behalf of adopted children who were once in foster care.

### States with College Tuition Waiver Programs

#### Florida

Children who are in foster care, receiving independent living services, or who are adopted from the Department of Children and Families after December 31, 1997 are exempt from all undergraduate fees, including registration, matriculation, and laboratory fees associated with enrollment in college preparatory instruction and completion of the college level communication and computation skills testing program in the State Community College System, the State University System, and other adult general education programs.

#### Kentucky

Tuition and mandatory fees for any public postsecondary institution, including all four year universities and colleges and institutions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, shall be waived for a Kentucky foster or adopted child who is a full-time student. [KRS 194B.050(1), 164:2847]

#### Maine

Funding is available for children up to age 21 using Title IV-B dollars. The program is limited to children whose families received adoption assistance.

#### Maryland

Available for youths who were adopted after their 14th birthday.

#### Massachusetts

Legislation passed July 1, 2000

#### Oregon

Children who were a ward of the court and in the legal custody of the state between age 16 and 21 are able to apply for the Former Foster Children Scholarship. More information is available from 800-452-8807 x 7395

#### Texas

Available for youth in state conservatorship at 14 years or older, if the youth is eligible for adoption

#### Virginia

Children must have been in foster care. For special needs children. Legislation passed in the 2000 session. Go to: [www.vccs.cc.va.us/vccsasr/tuitiongrant/tuitiongrant.html](http://www.vccs.cc.va.us/vccsasr/tuitiongrant/tuitiongrant.html)

### States With Other College Tuition Programs

#### Delaware

Offers a scholarship program for former foster children. Adopted children can apply but family income is considered. The DE Legislature budgeted \$50,000 in 2001.

#### District of Columbia

Offers a scholarship program for children adopted from the District's foster care system after Oct. 1, 2000. Covers vocational training, as well as college funding.

#### Hawaii

Continues to pay board rate for former foster children (not adopted) up to the 22nd birthday if in vocational school/college. See [www.hcf-hawaii.org](http://www.hcf-hawaii.org) or 888-731-3863.

#### Illinois

DFS has statutory authority to award up to 48 scholarships per year to children who are in substitute care, who have been adopted and prior to their adoption were under the Department's legal responsibility, or who are in subsidized guardianship living arrangements.

#### Minnesota

The Minnesota State College and University System offers free tuition to children committed to state guardianship (i.e., foster children) but are not adopted.

#### West Virginia

The department has tuition waivers for foster children only.

**States That Are Exploring a Tuition Waiver Programs****Arkansas****Missouri****Montana****Casey Family Programs and Orphan Foundation of America**

Each year, more than 25,000 youth attempt to make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency as they reach age 18. Only half finish high school, and about 11 percent go on to college or vocational education - much lower rates than the national averages. Through a new post-secondary education scholarship program, The Casey Family Programs will provide up to \$10,000 per year to youth under the age of 25 who have spent at least 12 months in foster care and were not subsequently adopted.

The awards will be renewable each year, based on satisfactory progress and financial need. The Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) will administer the program, and the recipients will also receive ongoing support through OFA's E-Mentor Program. OFA scholarship coordinators will match each student with a trained, screened adult who will interact with the student via e-mail, letters, and phone calls on a weekly basis to address specific issues faced by young people without parental support, including money management and life skills.

For more information on this and other OFA scholarship programs, visit [www.orphan.org/casey.html](http://www.orphan.org/casey.html) or call 800-950-4673.

North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)  
970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
phone: 651-644-3036  
fax: 651-644-9848  
e-mail: [info@nacac.org](mailto:info@nacac.org)  
Feedback

© Adoption Media, LLC 1995-2009. This site should not substitute personal professional, legal or medical advice. The accuracy and personal applicability of this information is not guaranteed. By using it you agree to the [terms of service](#), including jurisdiction and limitation of liability provisions.

**North American Council on Adoptable Children** Search | Site Map

[About NACAC](#) | 
 [How to Adopt](#) | 
 [Adoption Subsidy](#) | 
 [Parent Group](#) | 
 [Post-Adoption Support](#) | 
 [Public Policy](#) | 
 [Adoptalk Articles Publications](#) | 
 [Conference](#) | 
 [Training](#) | 
 [Links](#)



## College Tuition Waiver and Scholarship Programs

A significant post adoptive service offered by states is the waiver or payment of college tuition on behalf of adopted children who were once in foster care.

### States with College Tuition Waiver Programs

### Adoption Subsidy

United States

- State Profiles
- Fact Sheets
- Definitions
- National Summary

Canada

- Provincial Profiles

News & Resources

FAQs

Florida	Children who are in foster care, receiving independent living services, or who are adopted from the Department of Children and Families after December 31, 1997 are exempt from all undergraduate fees, including registration, matriculation, and laboratory fees associated with enrollment in college preparatory instruction and completion of the college level communication and computation skills testing program in the State Community College System, the State University System, and other adult general education programs.
Kentucky	Tuition and mandatory fees for any public postsecondary institution, including all four year universities and colleges and institutions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, shall be waived for a Kentucky foster or adopted child who is a full-time student. [KRS 164:2847]
Maine	Funding is available for children up to age 21 using Title IV-B dollars. The program is limited to children whose families received adoption assistance.
Maryland	Maryland offers the Maryland Waiver, which allows children who meet certain criteria to attend college in Maryland. To be eligible for the waiver you must meet the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be a Maryland resident</li> <li>2. Be in a foster care placement at the time you are graduating high school, or successfully completed your GED or adopted after your 14th birthday.</li> <li>3. Attend a college in Maryland, the waiver does not pay for a training program, nor does it cover the cost of books and or transportation.</li> <li>4. Applicant must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid</li> </ol>

	(FAFSA). 5. Waiver is good for 5 years after first year enrolling.
Massachusetts	Legislation passed July 1, 2000
New Jersey	New Jersey offers a College Tuition Waiver or College Scholarship program for foster and adopted youth. Adopted children over the age of 12 are eligible. The program is managed by Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), 800-222-0047 (ask for the scholarship department), email at <a href="mailto:scholarship@FAFSONline.org">scholarship@FAFSONline.org</a> , or on the web at <a href="http://www.fafsonline.org/Scholarship.html">www.fafsonline.org/Scholarship.html</a>
Oregon	Children who were a ward of the court and in the legal custody of the state between age 16 and 21 are able to apply for the Former Foster Children Scholarship. More information is available from 800-452-8807 x 7395
Texas	As of September 1, 2003, a student is exempt from the payment of college tuition and fees at state supported colleges and universities if the student was adopted AND was the subject of an adoption assistance agreement between the adoptive parents and DFPS (under Subchapter D, Chapter 162, of the Texas Family Code)  Please note that any child adopted and who was the subject of an adoption assistance agreement between the adoptive parents and DFPS before September 1, 2003 is eligible, as well as any person in the future meeting this requirement.
Virginia	Children must have been in foster care. For special needs children. Legislation passed in the 2000 session. Go to: <a href="http://www.dss.state.va.us/family/tuitiongrant.html">http://www.dss.state.va.us/family/tuitiongrant.html</a>

**States With Other College Tuition Programs**

Delaware	Offers a scholarship program for former foster children. Adopted children can apply but family income is considered. The DE Legislature budgeted \$50,000 in 2001.
District of Columbia	Offers a scholarship program for children adopted from the District's foster care system after Oct. 1, 2000. Covers vocational training, as well as college funding.
Hawaii	Continues to pay board rate for former foster children (not adopted) up to the 22nd birthday if in vocational school/college. See <a href="http://www.hcf-hawaii.org">www.hcf-hawaii.org</a> or 888-731-

	3863.
Illinois	DFS has statutory authority to award up to 48 scholarships per year to children who are in substitute care, who have been adopted and prior to their adoption were under the Department's legal responsibility, or who are in subsidized guardianship living arrangements.
Minnesota	The Minnesota State College and University System offers free tuition to children committed to state guardianship (i.e., foster children) but are not adopted.
West Virginia	West Virginia has a tuition waiver program available. It is limited to children residing in a foster care setting when they graduate from high school, starting with the graduating class of 2000. It is available in state-supported colleges only. The application can be obtained from the college of choice.  (Effective October 2002) Children adopted from the DHHR foster care system during the month they turn 16 are eligible to receive the Chafee Education Voucher to assist with post-secondary education costs.

**States That Are Exploring a Tuition Waiver Programs**

- Arkansas
- Missouri
- Montana

**Casey Family Programs and Orphan Foundation of America**

Each year, more than 25,000 youth attempt to make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency as they reach age 18. Only half finish high school, and about 11 percent go on to college or vocational education much lower rates than the national averages. Through a new post-secondary education scholarship program, The Casey Family Programs will provide up to \$10,000 per year to youth under the age of 25 who have spent at least 12 months in foster care and were not subsequently adopted.

The awards will be renewable each year, based on satisfactory progress and financial need. The Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) will administer the program, and the recipients will also receive ongoing support through OFA's E-Mentor Program. OFA scholarship coordinators will match each student with a trained, screened adult who will interact with the student via e-mail,

letters, and phone calls on a weekly basis to address specific issues faced by young people without parental support, including money management and life skills.

For more information on this and other OFA scholarship programs, visit [www.orphan.org/programs/casey.html](http://www.orphan.org/programs/casey.html) or call 800-950-4673.

---

**North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)**

970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106

St. Paul, MN 55114

phone: 651-644-3036

fax: 651-644-9848

e-mail: [info@nacac.org](mailto:info@nacac.org)

Feedback



# Getting Foster Youth to and through College

## Successes and Challenges of the New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program

*This report was made possible by grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Delisi Family Foundation. It was written and researched by ACNJ Communications Director Maia Davis and ACNJ legal intern Elizabeth Losey.*

### Introduction

In 2003, New Jersey took advantage of federal funding to start a scholarship program for foster youth to attend college. State officials anticipated that a few dozen youth would apply. But New Jersey Foster Care Scholars drew 90 young people its first year. By the 2007-08 academic year, the number enrolled in the program had grown six-fold to 556. Of those, 443 went on to register for classes and receive grants.

The popularity of the scholarship program is a testament to its importance. Many young people flocking to apply for scholarships see an opportunity for higher education that they thought they would never have.

*"I always thought, 'College costs too much. I don't have money to pay for it.'"—Kassim, 22, in the scholarship program three years and starting his senior year of college.*

Young people know a college degree is increasingly essential to success in today's competitive economy. Without it, they risk spending their lives stuck in low-wage work.

Youth aging out of foster care are particularly vulnerable. Many come from families unable to provide the stability or support children need to succeed in school. After being removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect, the children may endure repeated moves, further disrupting their schooling. The results of such childhood trauma, deprivation and dislocation can show up in their academic records. Among a 2005 sample of Midwestern foster youth, more than a third had not achieved either a high school diploma or GED by age 19. That is more than three times the percentage of their peers without this basic level of educational attainment.<sup>1</sup>

The New Jersey Foster Care Scholars program (NJFC Scholars) requires scholarship recipients to have either a high school diploma or GED. But some begin college with an educational deficit they have to make up through non-credit remedial courses. In addition to academic challenges, former foster youth are more likely than their peers to lack either the financial or emotional support of parents. On average in the United

States, young people ages 18 to 34 receive an estimated \$38,000 from parents to pay for college, supplement wages, assist with down payments on a house and other types of financial help.<sup>2</sup> This gives an idea of what former foster youth lose when they lack parents' financial support during college and after.

Typical college students also rely on parents for non-material assistance, including emotional support; advice on possible career paths and how to adapt to college life; and a place to live during college breaks. Studies show the lack of family involvement experienced by many foster youth creates a need for supplemental, non-financial supports, such as mentoring or counseling. For some students, such supports could make the difference of whether they stay in college or drop out.

The Association for Children of New Jersey has taken a look at the scholarship program through interviews with staff at the state Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the private agency that administers the program for the state; older foster youth and their counselors; and officials in other states that run similar scholarship programs. This report is the second in a series of ACNJ briefs on youth aging out of foster care.

To address the needs of foster youth, a comprehensive scholarship program should have:

- ❑ **Stable funding** sufficient to cover students' room and board costs as well as tuition and fees.
- ❑ **Non-material assistance** for students, including mentoring or counseling and access to academic tutoring.
- ❑ **Expansive eligibility rules** that offer scholarships to youth who left foster care as teenagers through adoption or guardianship in addition to those still in care or who have aged out.

■ **Practices based on the principles of “positive youth development,”** an approach designed to help youth become independent, self-supporting adults. This approach helps young people strengthen their abilities to make good decisions, reach out to community resources for help, and connect to the larger society.

■ **Extensive data collection to track the progress of students,** including on how many graduate and what conditions are conducive to success in college. For example, data should be collected on whether students live on or off campus; are in state custody or enrolled in some state-funded service for aging out youth; whether they work full- or part-time; and whether they have student loans.

**Our findings show New Jersey has most of these elements at least partially in place. But some are missing:**

■ New Jersey’s scholarship program lacks a sufficient, stable source of funding because the Legislature never appropriated funds to implement a 2003 law guaranteeing former foster youth free tuition to state public colleges. Notably, the program lacks enough funding to cover room and board costs for all students. The lack of a legislative appropriation is of particular concern because of a cut this year in New Jersey’s share of federal funds for foster youth scholarships. The federal funding cut is a result of a reduction in the number of New Jersey children in foster care.

■ New Jersey offers mentoring to NJFC scholarship recipients but not all students have availed themselves of the service. Students may also receive counseling or case management from other sources, including a Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) caseworker, if they are still in state care. The challenge for New Jersey is that scholarship recipients have varied situations. Some may be receiving the counseling and emotional support they need; others may not. Academic tutoring is not offered through NJ Scholars. Students who need academic support are expected to seek it at their college.

■ New Jersey’s scholarship program has more expansive eligibility guidelines than scholarship initiatives in many other states. The state has intentionally, for example, opened enrollment to youth who are homeless, in Kinship Legal Guardianship, or who were adopted from foster care between 12 and 15 years old. Still, data suggest the program reaches only a fraction of the approximately 1,900 young people who may be eligible.

■ DCF embraces the positive youth development approach to older youth and has this year conducted trainings in it for caseworkers and contracted service providers. The state is also incorporating some principles of positive youth development directly into the scholarship program, such as through a new requirement for scholarship recipients to sign an agreement that sets out their obligations in the program.

■ New Jersey has insufficient data on youth who have received scholarships. DCF and Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), the private agency that administers NJFC

Scholars for the state, are concerned that too many students are dropping out. They need data to confirm this and to track what might be contributing to the problem. FAFS will this year begin a significant expansion of its data collection, including on the number of students who return each year and the number who withdraw.

## I. **How It Began: A State Law With No Funding**

Former Governor James McGreevey and the New Jersey Legislature in 2003 passed a law establishing the Statewide Tuition Waiver Program.<sup>3</sup> Despite its name, the law does not waive the college tuition of foster youth. Rather, it mandates that the state cover whatever tuition costs remain for eligible foster youth at state public colleges and vocational schools after all other grants, such as from Pell and the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG), are applied. In addition to these restrictions, the law was never funded by the Legislature, which has undercut its potential benefit to foster youth.

## **Federal Funding to the Rescue But it is Not Enough**

New Jersey has been able to avoid appropriating money for the tuition-waiver law by relying largely on federal money. Around the same time the state law was passed, federal scholarship funds became available through Chafee Independent Living Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) for foster youth. The ETV program allows states to give up to \$5,000 per year to current and former foster youth for higher education tuition, room, board and other expenses.

DCF has supplemented the ETV funds with significant additional financing from other state and federal grants to its department. It has used this mix of funding to fulfill the tuition-waiver law’s mandate and go beyond it by providing scholarships to both public and private colleges, in and out of state. The funding is insufficient, however, to cover room and board for all students; housing costs are a big source of anxiety for many scholarship recipients. The funding crunch has been exacerbated this year by a cut in the state’s share of federal ETV funding from \$1,066,000 to \$926,000.

## II. **How it Works: Some Quick Facts on the New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program**

■ The scholarship program is run through a partnership of three agencies—DCF, FAFS and the Project Myself program at Rutgers University School of Social Work. FAFS, formerly called the Foster Parents Association, was a driving force behind the state’s establishment of a foster youth scholarship initiative.

■ DCF contracts with FAFS to administer the program, which includes processing applications; determining the size of grants based on students’ eligibility and need; liaising with college financial aid offices; and disbursing grants for tuition and living expenses as varied as a computer, child care, or a bus pass.

- FAFS' responsibilities also include outreach to potential scholarship recipients. Its contract this year calls for less mass outreach, such as through advertising, and more targeted outreach to organizations and individuals who work with older and former foster youth, which DCF thinks will be more effective.
- DCF also contracts with the Rutgers School of Social Work to run Project Myself, which provides mentoring and arranges volunteer community service work for scholarship recipients.
- Students can qualify for scholarships through meeting the eligibility rules of either the state tuition waiver or federal ETV programs. Scholarships are also available to youth who have been homeless or left foster care through adoption or Kinship Legal Guardianship, an important benefit to families who provide permanent homes to older foster youth.
- Although there are several ways to qualify, scholarships all essentially come out of the same pot of money, which is a combination of federal and state funds.
- The maximum ETV grants are \$5,000 per academic year. Grants may be higher for students who qualify under the tuition-waiver program and whose remaining tuition costs, after other federal and state grants are applied, exceed \$5,000. FAFS works to develop a scholarship package for each student that maximizes the availability of funds.
- Most scholarships provided are for college; approximately 10 percent of the youth in 2007-08 applied for scholarships to private technical schools.

■ FAFS encourages students to choose a college, public or private, that best meets their needs. Many foster youth begin their studies at state community colleges, which offer vocational-type courses such as in nursing or technology that may be in line with students' career goals. Courses at two-year colleges are also less costly than at four-year schools, which is particularly important when students must take non-credit remedial classes.

### III How NJFC Scholarship Participants Fare

#### How They Fare Financially: The Anxiety Over Living Expenses

College is an expensive proposition. Many NJFC scholarship recipients attend with no financial support from family.

As shown by examples on the chart below, the "cost of attendance" at New Jersey public and private colleges varies greatly. The chart does not include the costs at private technical schools, which can approach or exceed that of private colleges.

Students attending community colleges typically get nearly all their tuition covered by federal and state grants. They are more likely to get NJFC scholarship aid for room and board. But those at the more costly four-year schools, particularly schools that are private or out of state, are less likely to have anything but tuition covered. These students are more likely to have to pay some or all of their room and board and other living expenses on their own.

continued on page 6

### Sample of One Year of Higher Education Costs in NJ vs. Grants Available for Youth in NJ Foster Care Scholars Program<sup>1</sup>

Cost of Attendance	Felician College (Private)	Montclair State University (Public)	Rutgers University (Public)	Brookdale Community College (Public)
Tuition and Fees	\$23,500	\$9,781	\$10,614	\$1,772
Room and Board	\$9,350	\$10,304	\$9,482	\$9,239
Books	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$600
Transportation	\$800	\$1,152	\$900	\$1,136
Miscellaneous	\$1,800	\$3,637	\$1,500	\$849
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$36,450</b>	<b>\$25,874</b>	<b>\$23,496</b>	<b>\$13,596</b>
<b>Maximum Entitlement Grant Eligibility</b>				
Federal Pell Grant	\$4,731	\$4,731	\$4,731	\$4,310
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	\$1,000	\$1,800	unknown	\$400
State Tuition Aid Grant	\$10,136	\$6,036	\$7,922	\$2,646
NJ Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) <sup>2</sup>	\$2,500	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,050
<b>From NJ Foster Care Scholars, either:</b>				
State Tuition Waiver or Maximum Chafee ETV	0 \$5,000	Covers remainder of tuition and fees only after other grants are applied		
<b>Total Grants (excluding tuition waiver)</b>	<b>\$23,367</b>	<b>\$18,967</b>	<b>\$19,053</b>	<b>\$13,406</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$13,083</b>	<b>\$6,907</b>	<b>\$4,443</b>	<b>\$190</b>

<sup>1</sup> All costs calculated based on full-time, in-state student living on campus. In the case of Brookdale Community College, estimated costs are for a student living independently.

<sup>2</sup> Cost of Attendance is the amount calculated by the college and used in the calculation of financial aid, including for NJFC Scholars.

<sup>3</sup> The New Jersey EOF serves students who are capable and motivated to attend college but who are economically disadvantaged and had poor high school preparation. It is primarily available to students from lower socioeconomic school districts. EOF is offered by nearly all private and public colleges and is administered separately at each college.

## Comparison of State Scholarship Programs for Foster Youth

Numbers are for 2007-08 year unless otherwise noted.

Eligibility	Number of potentially eligible youth <sup>1</sup>	Number of scholarships	Tuition coverage to state public colleges	Tuition coverage to private colleges	Tuition coverage to out-of-state colleges
<p><b>NEW JERSEY</b></p> <p>1. Eligible for tuition waiver: Youth who have been homeless or in foster care for at least 9 months at age 16 or older and youth who have lived in DYFS-funded transitional housing. Also homeless youth. Must apply by 23rd birthday and attend college full-time.</p> <p>2. Eligible for ETV: Youth 16 to 21 who were in care or adopted from care after 16th birthday.</p> <p>3. Youth who left care between ages of 12 to 16 through adoption or Kinship Legal Guardianship.</p>	1,903 total for state	443 total for state	Yes	Yes, except for students who qualify only for tuition waiver.	Yes, except for students who qualify only for tuition waiver.
<p><b>CONNECTICUT</b></p> <p>Youth must voluntarily remain in state care to get scholarships. Eligibility for vocational school is up to age 21; for college it is up to age 23.</p>	1,581	562	Yes	Yes	Yes
<p><b>MARYLAND</b></p> <p>1. Eligible for tuition waiver: Youth in care upon receipt of h.s. diploma or receipt of GED or adopted from care after 14.</p> <p>2. Eligible for ETV: Youth in care or who have aged out of care, and those adopted from care after age 16.</p>	3,038	128 tuition waivers; 256 ETV recipients, 2006-07	Yes	No on tuition waiver, yes on ETV	No on tuition waiver, yes on ETV
<p><b>NEW YORK</b></p> <p>ETV program only. Youth in care or who have been in care from age 18 up to 23, and those adopted from care after age 16.</p>	8,680	810	Yes	Yes	Yes
<p><b>NORTH CAROLINA</b></p> <p>1. Eligible for ETV program: In state care on or after 17th birthday or adopted from care after 16th birthday. Eligible up to age 23.</p> <p>2. Eligible for NC REACH, a new program starting in 2008-09. Youth who aged out of care at age 18 or were adopted from care after age 12.</p>	1,583	263 ETV recipients. No number available for NC REACH as it is new program.	Yes	Yes on ETV, no on NC REACH	Yes on ETV, no on NC REACH

<sup>1</sup>Based on the number of youth ages 16 to 21 who are or were in foster care, 2004 data from the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS)

Room and board coverage	Other Supports	Federal ETV Funding	Other federal money	State contribution	Total amount spent
Amount available is generally what is left after tuition. Maximum grant for tuition, room and board is \$5,000.	Mentoring and community service work through Project Myself. Some students also receive counseling or case management from DYFS caseworkers or through DYFS-funded programs.	\$1,066,000.	\$947,327 (from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Chafee Independent Living funds)	\$905,396 (from state grants to DCF and DCF purchase of services)	\$2,918,618
Youth receive up to \$1,813 per month from state housing program.	Funding from ETV also used for tutoring, computers and other supports.	\$668,612	Unknown	\$7,336,157 on tuition, housing and other supports.	\$8,004,769
Independent living supports (rent, utilities, etc.) available on case-by-case basis.	Mentoring, tutoring, and other supports provided by Orphan Foundation.	\$962,000.	None	\$307,200 to tuition waiver program, \$86,580 to ETV program	\$1,355,780
Generally, amount available for room, board and other expenses is what is left after tuition and fees are paid.	Mentoring, tutoring, and other supports provided by Orphan Foundation.	\$2,603,191	None	\$234,287	\$2,837,478
1. ETV: Amount available is generally what is left after tuition. Maximum grant for tuition, room and board is \$5,000. 2. NC REACH: fully covers room, board, transportation and school supplies.	In both, the ETV and NC REACH programs, mentoring, tutoring and other supports are provided by Orphan Foundation.	\$947,000	None	1. ETV: State contribution is equal to at least 20 percent of federal grant, or \$189,400. 2. NC REACH: not available.	1. ETV program: At least \$1,136,400. 2. NC REACH: unknown

Housing in particular can be a big source of anxiety for scholarship recipients. Unlike other college students, many youth in the scholarship program have no stable family home where they might live while attending classes or during college breaks.

*One student, whose name is being withheld, said housing and money are constant sources of worry: "Where am I going to go over the winter break? What do I do for housing junior and senior year? How can I work full-time and maintain the GPA I need?....Money is a huge thing."*

Even some who may have a family or foster family they could live with choose to stay away. One student told ACNJ he avoided spending time at his foster home because it is in a crime-ridden neighborhood. He does not want to subject himself to that environment.

### **The Difficulty Students Face with Housing is Fueled in Part by Limitations of the State Tuition Waiver Law.**

The law restricts waiver money to be used only for tuition, not housing. It also covers only what remains of tuition after other grants are applied. That can amount to very little aid for students whose tuition is covered nearly in full by Pell, TAG and other grants. Students at private or out-of-state colleges with higher tuition costs who could benefit most from the waiver are ineligible because it can be used only for state public colleges.

The damaging effect of these restrictions is perhaps most evident for students who qualify only for tuition waiver and not ETV. This includes homeless youth who were never in state care, youth who first apply for scholarships after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, and those who continue their studies after their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Among students ineligible for ETV, the fortunate ones live in a DYFS-funded transitional or independent living program or with their family or foster family. DCF last year began to extend foster care payments to families of college students so that more foster families may continue providing a home for young people pursuing a higher education.

But some youth are left to cover room and board through working full-time or student loans. The potential loan burden is a concern. There is growing alarm nationally that the increasing loan burden on U.S. undergraduates is excessive and harmful to their future prospects. This is a greater worry for former foster youth who are more likely to lack financial support from parents after college when loans become due.

*"The scholarship was central to my academic success," says James Taylor, 25, profiled in a Star-Ledger newspaper article when he graduated from Keain University in June 2008. James told ACNJ that while his tuition was covered by the tuition waiver, he paid for living expenses through working and student loans that amount to more than \$30,000 for his five years in college. He feels lucky the total isn't higher. But he added that students need affordable, safe housing. "No one expects to get a free ride. But the environments we have to move to, you have to deal with drugs and vandalism and theft. Areas near college campuses are too expensive."*

### **How Scholarship Recipients Fare Academically and Emotionally**

Living expenses aren't the only source of stress for some foster youth in college. Some begin college with educational deficits and find themselves placed by their colleges in non-credit remedial courses. It can be frustrating to earn no credits while struggling to balance work and school.

*"The first year was all non-credit classes. It seemed kind of pointless," said Delanne, 20, a community college student. But she said that after her DYFS case was closed when she was 18, she benefited from counseling in a DYFS-funded aftercare program for former foster youth. "I had somebody to really guide me and help me."*

Students who do not need remedial courses can also feel overwhelmed by the demands of course work, jobs and personal responsibilities.

*Jasmine, 23, found it a struggle a couple of years ago to balance caring for her baby daughter, working part-time, and carrying a full course load at a four-year college. She transferred to a community college where, "It seemed like the professors were more willing to sit down and talk if you needed to." She completed her associate's degree and is transferring to another four-year college this fall.*

College students need emotional support and guidance to steer their way to a degree. Delanne has gotten that from a counselor in a state-funded program. Jasmine said she has benefitted from mentoring from Project Myself. The situations of NJFC scholarship recipients are varied, with some in DYFS-funded programs or state care and others living on their own without counseling or case management. DCF needs to ensure that all students have someone to offer guidance and encouragement.

### **IV. How Project Myself Works**

Project Myself was founded in 1999 to offer supports to the then small number of former foster youth receiving DYFS scholarships. The program now serves NJFC scholarship recipients. It also runs the Transitions for Youth web site, [www.transitionsforyouth.org](http://www.transitionsforyouth.org), for aging out youth and operates a small summer program in which scholarship recipients live on the Rutgers campus, receive living stipends and participate in summer internships.

Project Myself's services to scholarship recipients have evolved over the years. In the past, it gave them several options for participating, including mentoring a younger NJFC scholarship student or doing community service. For the 2008-09 academic year, the plan is for graduate interns in social work to provide all of the mentoring, which promises a higher quality of service. In addition, all NJFC scholarship recipients will be required to do volunteer community work for 20 hours per semester. The purpose is to help them connect to their communities, gain experience that can guide career choices, and have something to put on their resumes.

All NJFC scholarship recipients are supposed to participate in Project Myself. But in 2007-08, only about a third were active, according to the Project Myself program director. One problem is that some students, after receiving their grants, don't keep in touch with either Project Myself or FAFS and fail to apprise them of changes in contact information. When Project Myself staff reach out by phone or email to students who have not contacted the program on their own, they often cannot get through or their messages aren't returned.

That should change this year. NJFC scholarship recipients are being required to sign a participation agreement in which they pledge among other things to keep in regular contact with FAFS and to participate in Project Myself. This means more students could potentially benefit from Project Myself. But it raises the question of how the program's small staff of two employees plus four social work interns could handle a potential tripling of their caseload. DCF may need to examine whether more funding is necessary for Project Myself to serve all scholarship recipients effectively.

## V. How NJFC Scholars is Changing in the 2008-09 Academic Year

Despite the enormous growth in the scholarship program over the past few years, it is facing a federal funding cut. Chafee ETV funds are distributed to states based on their overall number of children in foster care. A significant drop in children in out-of-home placement in New Jersey has led to a 13 percent cut in ETV funds to about \$926,000.

DCF has responded to both the funding squeeze and concerns about student retention by making certain changes to program management and the requirements upon scholarship recipients. The goal is to stretch available funds without turning away eligible students.

- Students will now have an October deadline to apply for scholarships for fall semester and March to apply for spring, in contrast to the past practice of rolling admissions throughout the year.
- The program will operate on an academic year. Previously, it ran on the federal fiscal year. That allowed some first-year students to receive up to \$10,000 in ETV grants instead of \$5,000 because they received one full installment early in the calendar year and the second after the start of the new fiscal year in October. The maximum ETV grant will now be up to \$2,500 per semester, consistent with federal guidelines.
- Students will have to sign a participation agreement.
- Youth whose semester GPA falls below the required 2.0 will be put on academic probation and will have to demonstrate they have sought academic tutoring. They will have one semester to bring their GPA up or they will lose their scholarship.

DCF and NJFC program staff hope these changes will encourage students serious about higher education to pursue scholarships. They believe some foster youth may have pursued college scholarships because they lacked a sense of direction

and were drawn by ETV funding for living expenses. But since the scholarship program began, there are more options for older foster youth in New Jersey. DYFS now allows young people to stay in foster care until age 21. The state also has significantly increased the amount of subsidized housing for aging out youth. These changes should help DCF reserve the scholarship program for those who really want higher education.

## VI. What Other States Are Doing

The critical need to provide educational supports to former foster youth has been widely recognized by the federal government and states. It is useful to compare New Jersey's program to scholarship initiatives elsewhere to see what our state is doing well and where it might improve.

All 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico receive federal Chafee ETV funds for educational supports to older foster youth. Some, unlike New Jersey, fail to fully utilize these funds and return some portion to the federal government.

Eighteen states and the District of Columbia also give some type of tuition support for foster youth. The most common approach is like New Jersey's, a tuition waiver to state-funded colleges and vocational schools. Unlike New Jersey, however, at least some of these states have made a direct appropriation from their state budgets to fund the waiver.

Most states offering tuition waivers or other educational supports also cover at least some of the cost of housing and other expenses. Connecticut stands out. It spent \$7.3 million of state funds last year in addition to \$668,612 in ETV funds to cover full room and board, tuition and other expenses for foster youth attending any accredited college, public or private, in or out of state. Participants have no need for student loans. Unlike New Jersey and most other states, Connecticut requires youth to remain in state care to receive the tuition and housing aid.

Connecticut officials aren't satisfied with their program's graduation rate, 52 percent in 2005. Similar to New Jersey, they believe some students not ready for college may have enrolled because they or their social workers felt the young people weren't ready to live independently. To combat this, the state is now offering alternative paths to independence, including a new employment program that helps youth sustain gainful employment for 12 months while giving them limited support for living expenses.

New Jersey also offers housing to older and former foster youth through transitional living and independent living programs. The cost of these programs is not included in the \$2.9 million spent on the scholarship initiative. Although some college students live in such housing, there are no spots reserved for them.

A glance at other states' programs suggests the New Jersey program might have an untapped potential for raising private money. Private fundraising could not substitute for stable and adequate state funding to the New Jersey program. But it might allow the scholarship program to offer more supports, such as through expanding mentoring or other services to scholarship recipients.

A model for this may be the national Orphan Foundation of America, which administers foster youth scholarship programs for nine states and raises private money to supplement its services. OFA's executive director says the program focuses strongly on both student retention and positive youth development.

OFA's practices include requiring that every ETV scholarship recipient be enrolled in a student support group and get matched with one of the trained volunteers in OFA's national virtual mentoring program. OFA matches mentors based on students' stated needs, including professional and career interests, according to the foundation's web site. Each student also receives three personalized care packages a year and phone calls and text messages on birthdays and during holidays and exam periods. Both the mentoring and care packages are funded at least in part through private donations to OFA.

For students identified as at a high risk of dropping out, OFA staff try to help students pinpoint obstacles to their achievement. The efforts appear to pay off in some states. In North Carolina, 85 percent of the students who began college in 2004-05 remained in school three years later. In New York state, the retention rate is lower: 65 percent of ETV recipients in 2007-08 were returning students. OFA is obligated under its contract with New York to improve retention.

New Jersey has recognized some OFA activities as "best practices" and is consciously adopting some. The participation agreement that students in the New Jersey program will have to sign this year is an example of positive youth development, as is the emphasis on community service at Project Myself.

## VII. Conclusion

The fast growth of the NJ Foster Care Scholars program since it began five years ago shows its importance: The program touched a need. Its growth also testifies to the program's inclusiveness. New Jersey has gone beyond the requirements of the state tuition waiver law to meet the needs of vulnerable youth who have been in foster care or homeless. In addition, the state is taking important steps this year to strengthen the program, including requiring youth to get tutoring if their grades begin to slip and collecting data to track the progress of students.

But the lack of a legislative appropriation for the tuition waiver law or, for that matter, for any part of the NJFC Scholars program, has forced DCF to scramble for funding each year. The cut in federal ETV money this year exacerbates the funding crunch.

One solution could be for New Jersey to make the tuition waiver a true waiver by not charging tuition to eligible foster youth attending state public colleges and vocational schools. That would allow the scholarship program to use more of its funds for students' living expenses. Another option is for the Legislature to appropriate money for the tuition waiver law. Either way, the scholarship program would end up with more funds for strengthening its supports to foster youth in college. Those supports could make a difference, helping more foster youth achieve a college degree and become successful adults contributing to the future of New Jersey.

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Courtney, M., Dworsky A., Ruth G., Keller T., Havlicek J., Bost N. (2005) *Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes at Age 19*. Chapin Hall Center for Children at The University of Chicago, p. 20.
- <sup>2</sup> Fernandes, A. (2007) *Vulnerable Youth: Background and Policies*. Congressional Research Service Report to Congress, p. 2
- <sup>3</sup> Statewide Tuition Waiver Program: N.J.S.A. 40 (C.30:4C-101 to 30.4C-105)
- <sup>4</sup> Livio, S. "Hard-Fought Success: One Man's Experience Shows the Challenges Facing Former Foster Children." (June 29, 2008) *The Star-Ledger* (Newark, New Jersey), p. 21.

### Acknowledgements

Thank you to the many people who generously contributed their time and shared information and insights for this policy brief. They include:

The young people quoted in this brief for generously sharing their stories, and:

At DCF:

Nancy Caplan  
Mary Helen Cervantes  
John Morino  
Janet Murray  
Erin O'Leary  
Bob Sabreen

At other agencies in New Jersey:

Foster and Adoptive Family Services: Leslie Barda and Fran Gervasi  
Project Myself: Treena Shivers  
Robin's Nest: Jackie Watkins and Laurie DiBella Spears  
Felician College financial aid office  
New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, Educational Opportunity Fund

These agencies outside New Jersey:

Connecticut: Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Adolescent and Transitional Services  
Maryland: Department of Human Services  
New York State: Office of Children and Family Services, Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development  
North Carolina: Department of Social Services  
Orphan Foundation of America

The Association for Children of New Jersey

35 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 643-3876 ■ Fax (973) 643-9153

www.acnj.org ■ www.kidlaw.org ■ www.MakeKidsCountNJ.org



## Alaska Native Health Board

1840 Bragaw Street, Suite 220  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Phone: (907) 562-6006

Fax: (907) 563-2001

April 3, 2009

Senator Donny Olson  
State Capital Building, Room 514  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Olson,

We write to express our support for SB 139, an act establishing a health professions loan repayment program and employment incentive program. **Alaska is one of only six states without a state-sponsored health professions support-for-service program such as a loan repayment and incentive program.** This, in combination with national health profession shortage dynamics, has given rise to an alarming vacancy rate among health professions in Alaska, particularly for Alaska Tribal providers, many of whom are located in remote rural areas of Alaska, and many of whom are the only health providers in their regions.

The competition for recruitment of providers is very difficult. Nationally, only 2% of medical students are choosing the primary care field. In Alaska, there are more than 90 pharmacist vacancies, many in rural areas. Many communities, particularly in rural areas, have well-documented shortages of dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, dental hygienists, psychologists, licensed certified social workers, and physical therapists.

SB 139 provides an important part of the solution to the workforce shortage Alaska faces. The proposal was developed after careful review of national studies of best practices for workforce recruitment and retention and input from stakeholders statewide, including consideration of factors unique to Alaska. More cost-efficient and results-producing than other methods, loan repayment and incentives have been shown to effectively help alleviate shortage problems in other states. SB 139 establishes a loan repayment and incentive program customized for Alaska and will provide much needed relief for our state.

**Because of the severe impact of the health workforce shortage on healthcare access for Alaska's residents, particularly among Alaska Natives and others served by Alaska Tribal health providers, the Alaska Native Health Board strongly supports SB 139 to establish a loan repayment and incentive program to allow Alaska to compete in recruitment of health professionals from a shrinking national labor pool.**

Respectfully,

Evangelyn Dotomain  
President/CEO