

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1987-1988 8672

4615 HHS SB 79 - SB 195

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79

POSITION PAPER

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 79 (HESS)

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to runaway and missing minors."

NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

The common perception that runaways are simply troublesome or disobedient youth who leave home for adventure is not supported by fact. Most runaways come from severely troubled homes. Others run from families in which parents lack skills in communication, conflict resolution, discipline, and other important parenting skills.

Studies both nationally and in Alaska indicate that youth run away from home in general because of:

- 1) family conflict;
- 2) physical or sexual abuse or neglect;
- 3) alcohol or drug abuse of a parent or the child;
- 4) school problems;
- 5) family instability or dysfunction.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children cites one study which found that 40% of runaways were physically abused in their homes and that 70% of female and 40% of male runaways were victims of sexual abuse. An estimated 20-30% of youth who are identified as runaways have actually been forced out of their homes.

There is no definitive data on the numbers of runaway youth in Alaska. The most thorough study to date focused only on the Anchorage area.<sup>1</sup> That study concluded that there are at least 1,200 known runaways in the Anchorage area and estimated that at least 3,600 youths run away or are forced from their homes in that area each year. Based on the Anchorage study, population distribution, and the distribution of runaways served by the Division of Family and Youth Services it can be estimated of that there are probably 2,400 and possibly as many as 7,000 runaways in Alaska each year.

Most youth who leave home without parental permission for at least 24 hours do so only once or twice and most (80%) return home voluntarily within 2-7 days. Only a small percentage become chronic runaways. Chronic runaways and the 20-30% of "runaway" youth who are forced from their homes - the castaways or throwaways - are the youth who are at highest risk of being victimized or committing a crime.

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<sup>1</sup> Final Assessment Report, Runaway Support Network Project, Paul Wasserman, 1985.

EFFECTS OF HCSCSSB 79 (HESS)

Key provisions of this bill address several issues related to the problems of runaway and homeless youth and their families. These include:

Reporting

Section 1 would make the reporting of runaway and missing youth easier for parents by requiring police agencies to respond to telephonic as well as written requests to locate these youths. This could increase the usefulness of such reports to law enforcement agencies by making the reports more timely.

Placement of Runaways Taken into Custody

Section 1 makes changes in the placement options available when a runaway is taken into protective custody by a law enforcement agency. It maintains the ability of a youth to choose between returning home and other available placements. However, it requires that a parent consent to the return of a child to the home. This is intended to address parental concerns that they are now required to accept their child's return home and assume responsibility to care for the child even if they believe the child will be beyond their control when the law enforcement officer is no longer present. The Department does not support this provision viewing it as unnecessary, since parents can and do refuse to accept return of their children under present law, and as poor policy, potentially encouraging parents to shift parental responsibilities to the state. However, the Department would not oppose the bill solely because of this provision.

This Section also establishes two additional placement options to which police would be required to take a runaway child in protective custody. These are: 1) a "nearby location" agreed to by the child and parent, and 2) an approved runaway program. The first of these is intended to allow a child to be taken to a safe location (such as the home of a relative or family friend) when both the child and parent agree that the location is suitable and preferable to the child returning home. The second option would allow placement of a child in an approved runaway program defined in other sections of the bill. This allows the child another option beyond an office or contract agency of the Department.

Detention of Runaways

Section 2 would address the problem of protecting runaways who endanger themselves by allowing their temporary detention under certain limited circumstances. Runaways could be detained only by court order and only when: 1) a prior court order has been violated, 2) the youth's circumstances present a severe and imminent danger, and 3) no reasonable alternative to detention exists. Youth detained under these

circumstances could be held in youth facilities only - detention in a jail or other secure facility holding adult prisoners would be prohibited. A runaway detained under the proposed AS 47.10.141(c) must be brought before a court within 48 hours to determine if the youth is in civil contempt of court.

It is the understanding of the Department that it is intended that these youth not be subject to an adjudication of delinquency for contempt of court. In any event, it would be the policy of the Department not to initiate delinquency proceedings on the basis of a contempt of court citation in the absence of another delinquent act.

#### Development of Innovative Programs for Runaways

The bill would promote the development of innovative programs for runaway and homeless youth in several ways. It would:

1. define a specific type of program for runaway and homeless youth including the general requirements and some specific responsibilities of such programs;
2. establish within the Department of Health and Social Services review, inspection, and approval authority over such programs;
3. exempt from licensure approved runaway programs of the statutorily defined type;
4. immunize officers and employees of these programs from liability for civil damages for admission and release actions but not from reckless or intentional misconduct;
5. authorize the Department to award grants for the establishment and operation of approved programs;

The runaway programs defined by the bill could provide needed alternative placements for runaway youth where these youth could be safely sheltered and receive medical and counseling services while reunification efforts are begun. The mechanism of supporting these services through grants to approved programs has proven effective with other preventive services and is supported by the Department.

#### DEPARTMENT POSITION

The Department supports this bill as an effective means of addressing many of the troubling problems of runaway youth.

The development of much needed shelter services for runaway and homeless youth would be encouraged by the bill and the utilization of shelter and attendant reunification services by these youth may be increased by its provisions. By allowing youth to reside in approved facilities for 45 days without the consent of custodians, the bill establishes a non-punitive approach for these programs which may be viewed by runaway youth as safer and more attractive than other options. Increased use of

shelter and reunification services would also be encouraged by the provision establishing such facilities as a placement option for runaway youth taken into custody by police.

Importantly, the bill achieves a careful balance in its approach to the use of detention to protect runaways. The bill avoids the damaging and ineffective use of detention as a means of addressing the problems of most runaways by limiting the use of detention to those few chronic runaways whose behavior places them in clear danger. It also avoids the danger of over use of detention by requiring that detention occur only on order of the alternative exists. The bill provides a critical protection for these non-criminal youth by prohibiting their detention in adult jails avoiding the inherent dangers of mixing youths with adult prisoners.

RECOMMENDED:

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

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED:

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

DATE: 2-16-88

**FISCAL NOTE**

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An Act relating to runaway  
and missing minors.  
Sponsor: Rodey, et al.  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Health and Social Services  
BRU: Youth Services  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

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

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

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

**POSITIONS:**

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

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

N/A

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director  
Division: Division of Family and Youth Services

Phone: 465-3170  
Date: 02-09-88

Approved by Commissioner: Myra M. Munson, Commissioner  
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Date: 2-16-88

**Distribution (by preparer):**

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

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

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May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

*House Hess:*

*February 10, 1988*

*February 17, 1988*

FISCAL NOTE

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

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
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Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director  
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A M E N D M E N T

Offered in the House

TO: HCS CSSB 79 (HESS)

Page 3, line 18, after "minors":

Insert "operated by a municipality or by a corporation organized under AS 10.20"

Page 3, line 29, after "under":

Insert "AS 10.05 or"

# Delinquency, runaway behavior linked to abuse

By GLENN COLLINS  
The New York Times

**N**EW YORK — A study of adolescent runaways has provided new evidence that physical and sexual abuse are important contributors — not only to chronic runaway behavior, but also to delinquency and emotional difficulties.

The study of 149 youths between the ages of 12 and 20 found that running away was often a symptom of family distress. High levels of conflict and aggression were common in the families of repetitive runaways, as well as a lack of commitment and mutual support.

Frequently the families set impossibly high expectations for children without helping them to be competent or independent.

The research, financed by a grant from the United States Justice Department, were presented at a recent conference in Toronto. Among the findings are these:

- Seventy-three percent of the runaways had been physically beaten, and 43 percent of them cited physical abuse as an important reason for leaving home.

- Seventy-three percent of the girls and 38 percent of the boys reported having been sexually abused. "We believe that the females were more likely than males to have experienced physical and sexual abuse and to encounter subsequent problems subsequent to running away," said the study's principal investigator, Dr. Ann W. Burgess, who is the van Ameringen Professor of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

- Sexually abused runaways were more likely to report suicidal feelings and anxiety than those who had not been abused. They were also more likely to be afraid of being alone and to feel as if they were going crazy.

- Younger girls who had been sexually

## Youth problems often signal family distress

abused were more likely to have trouble in school, to be engaged in delinquent and criminal activity, to have participated in acts of violence and to have used alcohol and drugs.

- Runaway boys who had been sexually abused were more likely to be withdrawn, to report being depressed, to have difficulty forming and sustaining friendships, with both boys and girls, and they also reported more physical complaints, such as headaches and stomach aches.

"We need to change the way that people look at runaways," said Burgess, who will present the study's findings at the First Annual Symposium on Street Youth, a gathering of experts on homeless youngsters.

"People attach labels to them like 'wayward' or 'delinquent,'" she said. "But often the running away is simply a symptom of other problems that need attention."

She added: "We don't want to romanticize these kids — they are no angels — but they are often the victims of one sort of abuse or another."

The research was conducted as part of an ongoing study of child abuse and criminal behavior financed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Justice Department.

The randomly selected subjects were studied at Under 21, a crisis-intervention shelter in Toronto run by Covenant House, which also has shelters in New York City, Houston and Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Eighty-one percent of the mostly middle-class subjects were white, and all participants were promised anonymity.

Studies have estimated that from 9 to 12 percent of American children between the ages of 12 to 17 run away from home at least

once. "Runaways are commonly perceived as 'Tom Sawyer types' who take off because they're lured by excitement or adventure," said the Rev. Mark David Janus, a chaplain at the University of Connecticut who contributed to the research and served as consultant at Covenant House.

But chronic runaways "are more likely to have been abused and battered," he added. "Remember, Huck Finn left his father because he was beaten, and David Copperfield left home because of his cruel stepfather. This is closer to the truth we see."

Of the runaways, 46 percent came from "intact" families where two birth parents were present; 31 percent came from single-parent families where one birth parent was present, and 23 percent came from stepfamilies where one birth parent plus a stepparent was present.

The research suggested that financial stability was a more important factor in the abuse of runaways than the type of family structure. About 48 percent of the runaways had come from families that had experienced financial difficulty, and runaways from these homes were more likely to report physical or sexual abuse.

Although often "single-parent families are negatively stereotyped in our culture," Burgess said, there was no more abuse in single-parent families than in intact families when they had adequate income.

Often the runaways' families had been highly critical of the youths. Many were "really put down drastically," Burgess said, "and the kids internalized this and often had a very low self-concept."

The researchers found that many of the abused runaways displayed confusion about appropriate nurturing by adults. After run-

ning away, the youths were often vulnerable to pimps and others offering some degree of what the youngsters regarded as protection and affection.

Burgess' collaborators in the study, in addition to Janus, included Judith Wood, Dr. Arlene McCormack, Dr. Carol R. Hartman and Peter Gaccione.

The runaways were asked to complete drawings for the researchers. Some graphically illustrated anxiety or insecurity, as evidenced in broken or indecisive lines, according to Wood, one of the researchers and the director of the Therapeutic Arts Program at the Children's Hospital in Boston.

Other drawings suggested evidence of past sexual trauma or physical abuse. These runaways drew only partial pictures of human bodies or showed only the head, symbolizing the need to avoid confronting the abuse, the researchers said.

Burgess said the research called into question the way runaways are commonly treated by the criminal-justice system. Social and legal agencies often detain runaways with the goal of returning them to their families, "and that may simply set the stage for a repeat runaway episode," Burgess said.

"You can't assume that returning them to the home is a solution," she said, "yet at the same time our foster homes and group homes aren't free from abuse either." She said the evidence suggests that chronic runaways eventually become involved in the criminal-justice system as offenders, "and then they begin to prey on society."

She added: "We can't put our heads in the sand. It's looking more and more as if society pays a high price for failing to attend to the sexually abused child, if we consider the secondary effects such as substance abuse, suicide, delinquency and criminal behavior — plus what it does to them and their families."

# Runaway youth: Another view

By Cecilia Kleinkauf

In spite of a number of recent reports and articles on runaway youth in Anchorage, the fact remains that the true extent of the problem is not known. Numerical totals in the thousands, often quoted to reflect the "epidemic" proportions of the problem have not, for the most part, been the result of valid scientific research. Nevertheless, most citizens, law enforcement and human service agency personnel would agree that runaway children exist as a population in need of attention.

The causes of runaway behavior are as individual as each family and each runaway youth, and research is only beginning to provide us with information which reflects patterns of running away in response to family problems, physical or sexual abuse or peer pressure.

"Blame" for the problem has been inaccurately and inappropriately placed by some onto the legislature and the courts — since the statutes which formerly criminalized status offenders (children who are runaways, truant from school or curfew violators) and those which dealt with other dependent and neglected children were revised in 1977. These revisions followed a review of the state's procedures, relevant research findings and federal law which was conducted by the 1975-76 Childrens Code Task Force — a group of citizens and professionals jointly appointed by the legislature and the governor to conduct such a review.

Many of the Task Force's recommendations were based upon the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act — Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. This legislation has as its objective the diversion of non-violent, less serious offenders from an already overburdened juvenile justice system, the provision of services to meet the needs of youth during the runaway episode, reuniting the youth and family, encouraging the resolution of family problems, strengthening the family relationship and assisting the youth in deciding upon a future course of action.

Since Alaska complied with the Act's mandate for criminali-

zation of status offenders in 1977, the state has continued to receive federal money. The \$225,000 currently received is being utilized to develop methods to remove (or prevent) youth from being held in adult jails as often occurs in rural Alaska. This right to be held in custody separated from adults derives from children's constitutionally protected right to liberty. Like adults, however, children can be institutionalized if they break the law or are determined to be a danger to themselves or others under Alaska's mental health statutes.

The issue, therefore, is not a need for more restrictive laws but rather a need to provide services to youth and their families which will address family conflicts and also protect youth who are away from home from exploitation. Current Alaska Statutes (A.S. 47.10.141) require that law enforcement agencies "take into protective custody" minors "evading the minor's legal custodian" and either return the child home or take the child to the Alaska Division of Family and Youth Services. DFYS is then required to assess the situation and provide social services or foster home placement. The problems arise with the extreme lack of social work staff to provide ongoing support services or monitoring of the situation or in the fact that many children do not come into contact with law enforcement of DFYS.

A major area of need is the provision of a comprehensive range of services from preventive counseling and support, and parenting classes to emancipation services for older youth. The Runaway Youth Act, for instance, mandates a 24-hour seven-day-a-week youth shelter where children may go to escape situations on the street. Instead, Anchorage has only 22 shelter beds at Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation, 14 of which are contracted for by DFYS and eight of which require parental consent. Most parents of runaway youth list their major concern as the safety of their child, yet Anchorage does not seem able to mobilize to provide the same safety and shelter for homeless youth that it does for its other homeless street-people.

Runaway shelters in other

states which provide safety from the streets are required to notify the child's family of the child's whereabouts as a way of easing a family's concerns and alleviating claims that such shelters encourage running or harbor runaways. Such notification would also be required in any Anchorage shelter as statutes already provide for mandatory parental notice.

Many older youth and their families also need emancipation services as it becomes evident that family reunification is not possible. Rather than incarcerate such youth at high cost to the state as some suggest, legal emancipation accompanied by supportive group homes from which the youth can finish school or become employed and independent are much more productive and cost effective.

Public policy solutions to the runaway problem such as those which deprive youth of their constitutional rights or which seek to have the state punish the youth for the parent will not solve the problem. Instead, support for the services which families need in times of stress will produce a more individualized and positive result.

*Cecilia Kleinkauf is an Associate Professor and Department of Social Work Chairperson at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.*



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Original sponsors: Rodey, Faiks,  
Fischer, et al.

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IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 79 (HESS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to runaway and missing minors."

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

\* Section 1. AS 47.10.141 is amended to read:

Sec. 47.10.141. RUNAWAY AND MISSING MINORS. (a) Upon receiving a written or telephonic request to locate a minor evading the minor's legal custodian or to locate a minor otherwise missing, a law enforcement agency shall make reasonable efforts to locate the minor and shall immediately complete a missing person's report containing information necessary for the identification of the minor. As soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours after completing the report, the agency shall transmit the report for entry into the Alaska Public Safety Information Network and the National Crime Information Center computer system. As soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours after the agency learns that the minor has been located, it shall request that the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation remove the information from the computer systems.

(b) A peace officer shall take into protective custody a minor described in (a) of this section if the minor is not otherwise subject to arrest or detention. The peace officer shall honor the minor's preference to [EITHER] (1) return the minor to the legal custodian if the legal custodian consents to the return; (2) take the minor to a nearby location agreed to by the minor and the legal custodian; or (3) [(2)] take the minor to an office specified by the Department of Health and Social Services. a program for runaway minors approved by

1 the department under AS 47.10.310, or a facility or contract agency of  
2 the department. If an office specified by the department or a facili-  
3 ty or contract agency of the department does not exist in the communi-  
4 ty, the officer shall take the minor to another suitable location and  
5 promptly notify the department. A minor under protective custody may  
6 not be housed in a jail or, except as provided in (c) of this section,  
7 in a [OTHER] detention facility. Immediately upon taking a minor into  
8 protective custody the officer shall advise the minor orally and in  
9 writing of the right to social services under AS 47.10.142(b), and, if  
10 known, the officer shall advise the legal custodian that the minor has  
11 been taken into protective custody.

12 \* Sec. 2. AS 47.10.141 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 (c) A minor may be taken into protective custody by a peace  
14 officer and placed into temporary detention in a juvenile detention  
15 facility if there has been an order issued by a court upon a finding  
16 of probable cause that (1) the minor is a runaway in violation of a  
17 valid court order issued under AS 47.10.142(f), (2) the minor's cur-  
18 rent situation poses a severe and imminent risk to the minor's health  
19 or safety, and (3) no reasonable placement alternative exists within  
20 the community. For the purposes of this subsection, a risk may not be  
21 considered severe and imminent solely because of the general  
22 conditions for runaway minors in the community, but shall be assessed  
23 in view of the specific behavior and situation of the minor. A minor  
24 detained under this subsection shall be brought before a court within  
25 48 hours after the detention for a hearing to determine whether the  
26 minor is in civil contempt of court under AS 09.50.010(5). Protective  
27 custody may not include placement of a minor in a jail or secure  
28 facility other than a licensed juvenile detention facility, nor may an  
29 order for protective custody be enforced against a minor who is

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residing in an approved program for runaway minors, as defined in AS 47.10.390.

\* Sec. 3. AS 47.10.142 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(f) When a minor is committed to the department for temporary placement under (e) of this section, the court order shall specify the terms, conditions, and duration of placement. The court shall require the minor to remain in the placement provided by the department and shall clearly state in the order the consequences of violating the order, including the possibility of detention under AS 47.10.141(c).

\* Sec. 4. AS 47.10 is amended by adding new sections to read:

ARTICLE 5. PROGRAMS FOR RUNAWAY MINORS.

Sec. 47.10.300. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT. The department shall

(1) review, inspect, and approve or disapprove proposed or established programs for runaway minors;

(2) maintain a register of approved programs for runaway minors;

(3) award grants for the establishment or operation of approved programs for runaway minors;

(4) submit to the legislature and governor each January a report on runaway minors in the state;

(5) adopt regulations for the administration of AS 47.10.-300 - 47.10.390, including regulations providing for the coordination of services to be provided by approved programs for runaway minors and by the department.

Sec. 47.10.310. APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS FOR RUNAWAY MINORS. (a) The department may approve a program for runaway minors under AS 47.-10.300 - 47.10.390 only if the program

(1) is operated by a corporation organized under AS 10.20

1 or a municipality; and

2 (2) meets the requirements of (b) of this section.

3 (b) A program for runaway minors shall

4 (1) explain to a minor who seeks assistance from the pro-  
5 gram the legal rights and responsibilities of runaway minors and the  
6 services and assistance provided for runaway minors by the program and  
7 by the state or local municipality;

8 (2) attempt to determine why a minor in the program is a  
9 runaway;

10 (3) provide or help arrange for the provision of services  
11 necessary to promote the health and welfare of a minor in the program  
12 and, if appropriate, members of the minor's family; services may  
13 include, but are not limited to, the provision of food, shelter,  
14 clothing, medical care, and individual or family counseling;

15 (4) promptly inform the department of a minor in the pro-  
16 gram who claims to be the victim of child abuse or neglect, as defined  
17 in AS 47.17.070, or whom the program director reasonably suspects has  
18 been a victim of child abuse or neglect;

19 (5) be operated with the goal of reuniting runaway minors  
20 with their families, except in cases in which reunification is clearly  
21 contrary to the health and welfare of the minor; and

22 (6) maintain adequate staffing and accommodations to ensure  
23 physical security and to provide crisis services to minors residing in  
24 a facility operated by the program; residents under 18 years of age  
25 shall be segregated from residents who are 18 years of age or older.

26 (c) A program for runaway minors may provide services for the  
27 protection of the health and welfare of a person under 21 years of age  
28 who is in need of the services and who is without a place of shelter  
29 in which supervision and care of the person are available.

1           Sec. 47.10.320. RESIDENCE IN RUNAWAY MINOR PROGRAM FACILITIES.

2           A runaway minor may maintain residency for a period not exceeding 45  
3           days at a facility operated as part of an approved program for runaway  
4           minors. The minor may maintain residency without the consent of the  
5           person or agency having custody of the minor, except that if the court  
6           has ordered the minor committed to the custody of the department,  
7           written consent of the department is required. The residency may be  
8           extended for an additional period of 45 days with the written consent  
9           of the person or agency having custody of the minor. A minor may not  
10          maintain residency beyond the 90th day following admission to an  
11          approved program for runaway minors without the written consent of the  
12          person or agency having custody of the minor and the written consent  
13          of the department.

14          Sec. 47.10.330. NOTICE TO MINOR'S LEGAL CUSTODIAN. (a) The  
15          director of an approved program for runaway minors shall make a good  
16          faith effort to notify a minor's legal custodian within 72 hours after  
17          the minor is admitted to the program, unless there are compelling  
18          circumstances that justify withholding notice. The notice must de-  
19          scribe the minor's physical and emotional condition and the circum-  
20          stances surrounding the minor's admission to the program.

21          (b) The director of an approved program for runaway minors shall  
22          promptly notify a minor's legal custodian if the minor is released  
23          from the program into the custody of a person other than the legal  
24          custodian or a person representing the legal custodian.

25          Sec. 47.10.340. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS. Records of an  
26          approved program for runaway minors that identify a minor who has been  
27          admitted to or has sought assistance from the program are confidential  
28          and are not subject to inspection or copying under AS 09.25.110 -  
29          09.25.120, unless

1  
2 (1) the minor consents in writing to the disclosure of the  
3 records;

4 (2) the records are relevant to an investigation or pro-  
5 ceeding involving child abuse or neglect or a child in need of aid  
6 petition; or

7 (3) disclosure of the records is necessary to protect the  
8 life or health of the minor.

9 Sec. 47.10.350. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY. (a) The officers,  
10 directors, and employees of an approved program for runaway minors are  
11 not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or omission in  
12 admitting a minor to the program or releasing a minor from the program  
13 into the custody of a person other than the minor's legal custodian.

14 (b) This section does not preclude liability for civil damages  
15 as a result of reckless or intentional misconduct.

16 Sec. 47.10.360. PROGRAMS EXEMPT FROM LICENSING. An approved  
17 program for runaway minors is not subject to licensing or regulation  
18 under AS 47.35.

19 Sec. 47.10.370. MUNICIPAL POWERS. Authority to establish and  
20 operate an approved program for runaway minors is granted to munic-  
21 ipalities that do not otherwise have that authority.

22 Sec. 47.10.390. DEFINITIONS. In AS 47.10.300 - 47.10.390

23 (1) "approved program for runaway minors" means a residen-  
24 tial or nonresidential program approved by the department under  
25 AS 47.10.310;

26 (2) "runaway minor" means a person under 18 years of age  
27 who

28 (A) is habitually absent from home;

29 (B) refuses to accept available care;

(C) has no parent, guardian, custodian, or relative

1 able or willing to provide care; or

2 (D) has been physically abandoned by

3 (i) both parents;

4 (ii) the surviving parent; or

5 (iii) one parent if the other parent's rights and  
6 responsibilities have been terminated under AS 25.23.180(c)  
7 or AS 47.10.080 or voluntarily relinquished.  
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Patrick M. Rodey  
Senator

# Alaska State Legislature

1024 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 325  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6731



During Session:  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-3717

MEMORANDUM

Senate

TO: All Members  
House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Pat Rodey

DATE: February 5, 1988

RE: SB 79, "An Act relating to runaway and missing minors."

On Wednesday, February 10th, the House HESS Committee is scheduled to hear SB 79. As prime sponsor of SR 79, I am writing in advance to let you know of my satisfaction with the proposed House HESS committee substitute for this bill, and to request your swift action in moving this bill forward.

In its' current form, SB 79 will provide greater flexibility for law enforcement officers dealing with runaways, and allows for temporary detention in very limited cases. The House HESS Committee substitute has added new language requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to review, inspect and approve all private runaway and homeless youth programs.

The Department of Health and Social Services, parent's rights groups, and Covenant House have worked together to develop this bill, and all support its' passage.

I appreciate your consideration and encourage you to call if you have any questions.

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

5-0310N ✓  
Hein  
11/16/87

Original sponsors: Rodey, Faiks,  
Fischer, et al.

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 79 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to runaway and missing minors."

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

8 \* Section 1. AS 47.10.141 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 47.10.141. RUNAWAY AND MISSING MINORS. (a) Upon receiving  
10 a written or telephonic request to locate a minor evading the minor's  
11 legal custodian or to locate a minor otherwise missing, a law enforce-  
12 ment agency shall make reasonable efforts to locate the minor and  
13 shall immediately complete a missing person's report containing infor-  
14 mation necessary for the identification of the minor. As soon as  
15 practicable, but not later than 24 hours after completing the report,  
16 the agency shall transmit the report for entry into the Alaska Public  
17 Safety Information Network and the National Crime Information Center  
18 computer system. As soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours  
19 after the agency learns that the minor has been located, it shall  
20 request that the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of  
21 Investigation remove the information from the computer systems.

22 (b) A peace officer shall take into protective custody a minor  
23 described in (a) of this section if the minor is not otherwise subject  
24 to arrest or detention. The peace officer shall honor the minor's  
25 preference to [EITHER] (1) return the minor to the legal custodian if  
26 the legal custodian consents to the return; (2) take the minor to a  
27 (nearby location) designated by the legal custodian; or (3) [(2)] take  
28 the minor to an office specified by the Department of Health and  
29 Social Services, a program for runaway minors approved by the

*and youth*  
*by whom?*  
*limit request*

*too vague?*

*definition?*

1 department under AS 47.10.310, or a facility or contract agency of the  
 2 department. If an office specified by the department or a facility or  
 3 contract agency of the department does not exist in the community, the  
 4 officer shall take the minor to another (suitable location) and promptly  
 5 notify the department. A minor under protective custody may not be  
 6 housed in a jail or other detention facility. Immediately upon taking  
 7 a minor into protective custody the officer shall advise the minor  
 8 orally and in writing of the right to social services under AS 47.10.-  
 9 142(b), and, if known, the officer shall advise the legal custodian  
 10 that the minor has been taken into protective custody.

*what if  
it's on  
abusive  
home??*

\* Sec. 2. AS 47.10 is amended by adding sections to read:

ARTICLE 5. PROGRAMS FOR RUNAWAY MINORS.

Sec. 47.10.300. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT. The de-  
partment shall

(1) review, inspect, and approve or disapprove proposed or  
established programs for runaway minors;

(2) maintain a register of approved programs for runaway  
minors;

(3) award grants for the establishment or operation of  
approved programs for runaway minors;

(4) submit to the legislature and governor each January a  
report on runaway minors in the state;

(5) adopt regulations for the administration of AS 47.10.-  
300 - 47.10.390, including regulations providing for the coordination  
of services to be provided by approved programs for runaway minors and  
by the department.

Sec. 47.10.310. APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS FOR RUNAWAY MINORS. (a)  
The department may approve a program for runaway minors under AS 47.-  
10.300 - 47.10.390 only if the program

are we limiting too much

(1) is operated by a corporation organized under AS 10.20; and

(2) meets the requirements of (b) of this section.

(b) A program for runaway minors shall

(1) explain to a minor who seeks assistance from the program the legal rights and responsibilities of runaway minors and the services and assistance provided for runaway minors by the program and by the state or local municipality;

(2) attempt to determine why a minor in the program is a runaway;

(3) provide or help arrange for the provision of services necessary to promote the health and welfare of a minor in the program and, if appropriate, members of the minor's family; services may include, but are not limited to, the provision of food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and individual or family counseling;

(4) promptly inform the department of a minor in the program who claims to be the victim of child abuse or neglect, as defined in AS 47.17.070, or whom the program director reasonably suspects has been a victim of child abuse or neglect;

(5) be operated with the goal of reuniting runaway minors with their families, except in cases in which reunification is clearly contrary to the health and welfare of the minor; and

(6) maintain adequate staffing and accommodations to ensure physical security and to provide crisis services to minors residing in a facility operated by the program; residents under 16 years of age shall be segregated from residents who are 16 years of age or older.

Covenants regarding

mpra effect licensing by DEYS

Sec. 47.10.320. RESIDENCE IN RUNAWAY MINOR PROGRAM FACILITIES. Unless a petition has been filed or is to be filed alleging that a runaway minor is a child in need of aid, the minor may maintain

*and/or dept's approval*

1 residency for a period not exceeding 30 days at a facility operated as  
 2 part of an approved program for runaway minors. The residency may be  
 3 extended for an additional period of 30 days with the written consent  
 4 of the minor's legal custodian. A minor may not maintain residency  
 5 beyond the sixtieth day following admission to an approved program for  
 6 runaway minors without the written consent of the minor's legal custo-  
 7 dian and the approval of the department.

8 Sec. 47.10.330. NOTICE TO MINOR'S LEGAL CUSTODIAN. (a) The  
 9 director of an approved program for runaway minors shall make a good  
 10 faith effort to notify a minor's legal custodian within 72 hours after  
 11 the minor is admitted to the program, unless there are compelling  
 12 circumstances that justify withholding notice. The notice must de-  
 13 scribe the minor's physical and emotional condition and the circum-  
 14 stances surrounding the minor's admission to the program.

15 (b) The director of an approved program for runaway minors shall  
 16 promptly notify a minor's legal custodian if the minor is released  
 17 from the program into the custody of a person other than the legal  
 18 custodian or a person representing the legal custodian.

19 Sec. 47.10.340. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS. Records of an  
 20 approved program for runaway minors that identify a minor who has been  
 21 admitted to or has sought assistance from the program are confidential  
 22 and are not subject to inspection or copying under AS 09.25.110 -  
 23 09.25.120, unless

24 (1) the minor consents in writing to the disclosure of the  
 25 records;

26 (2) the records are relevant to an investigation or pro-  
 27 ceeding involving child abuse or neglect or a child in need of aid  
 28 petition; or

29 (3) disclosure of the records is necessary to protect the

1 life or health of the minor.

2 Sec. 47.10.350. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY. The officers, direc-  
3 tors, and employees of an approved program for runaway minors are  
4 immune from civil or criminal liability arising from the admission of  
5 a minor to the program or the release of a minor from the program into  
6 the custody of a person other than the minor's legal custodian.

7 Sec. 47.10.360. PROGRAMS EXEMPT FROM LICENSING. An approved  
8 program for runaway minors is not subject to licensing or regulation  
9 under AS 47.35.

10 Sec. 47.10.390. DEFINITIONS. In AS 47.10.300 - 47.10.390

11 (1) "approved program for runaway minors" means a residen-  
12 tial or nonresidential program approved by the department under  
13 AS 47.10.310;

14 (2) "runaway minor" means

15 (A) a person under 18 years of age who is evading the  
16 person's legal custodian; or

17 (B) a person under 21 years of age who is in need of  
18 services for the protection of health and welfare and who is  
19 without a place of shelter in which supervision and care of the  
20 person are available.  
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# COVENANT HOUSE UNDER 21

460 WEST 41 STREET  
NEW YORK N Y 10036  
(212) 613-0300

THE INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH ADVOCACY

December 10, 1987

Jim Nordlund  
Office of Rep. Johnny Ellis  
3111 C Street, Suite 455  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: Runaway Legislation

Dear Jim:

As we discussed over the phone, I am enclosing, with some trepidation, some tentative language on protective custody of runaways. The basis for this language is, of course, Senate Bill No. 79, Section 2, but the enclosed proposal includes substantial modifications of the original version.

All of us in this field view secure detention of runaways with a jaundiced eye; it is almost never a treatment strategy of choice. Nevertheless we are all forced to concede that some runaways--an extremely tiny minority, but not an insignificant absolute number--are embarked on a course so clearly self-destructive that all other hopes for them pale beside the need simply to keep them alive. In rare instances, it is impossible to deny that protective custody of short duration and in carefully controlled conditions can be a crucial legal implement.


The enclosed language attempts to recognize the need for the existence of such a remedy and the need to make its use extremely unusual. Such balancing does not lend itself to utter simplicity of language, but I hope the redefined standard is a clear one. Certainly this is an issue which we are all likely to be still struggling over 20 years hence, but perhaps some imperfect but manageable compromise is possible in the interim.

Please don't construe this proposal as an official Covenant House document; I have had no time to allow it to be reviewed carefully by other senior staff here, and Fr. Ritter has not been available to review it either. Still it does suggest, I think, our general view that absolutes on both sides of the secure-detention issue are mistaken, and that our best bet is to allow some leeway for case-by-case consideration of endangered runaways under clear and stringent standards.

Jim Nordlund  
December 10, 1987  
Page 2

I look forward to talking to you and to the Committee on Monday, and am deeply grateful for your superb work on this matter to date. All best, and thanks.

Yours sincerely,

  
Gregory A. Loken

Enc.

## Protective Custody

Sec. 2. AS 47.10.141 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) A minor may be taken into protective custody by a peace officer and placed into temporary detention in a juvenile detention facility if there has been an order issued by a court upon a finding of probable cause that: (1) the minor is a runaway in violation of a valid court order issued under AS 47.10.142(f), (2) the minor's current situation poses a severe and imminent risk to the minor's health or safety, and (?) no reasonable placement alternative exists within the community. For the purposes of this subsection, a risk shall not be considered "severe and imminent" based solely on general conditions for runaway minors in the community, but must be assessed in view of the specific behavior and situation of the minor at issue. A minor detained under this subsection shall be brought before a court within 48 hours after the detention for a hearing to determine whether the minor is in civil contempt of court under AS 09.50.010(5). On no account may protective custody include placement of a minor in any jail or secure facility other than a licensed juvenile detention facility, nor may an order for such custody be enforced against a minor currently residing in a duly licensed runaway and homeless youth program.

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

November 18, 1987

SUBJECT: Sectional analysis of HCS CSSB 79 (HESS)

TO: Representative Johnny Ellis  
Co-Chair, House HESS Committee

FROM: Edward H. Hein *E.H.*  
Legislative Counsel

Section 1 is the same as section 1 of CSSB 79 (Judiciary) am, with one exception. The HESS Committee version amends AS 47.10.141(b) by allowing a runaway minor who is picked up by police to choose to be taken to a private program for runaways that is approved by the Department of Health and Social Services, rather than to be taken home or to a place designated by the minor's legal custodian or to an office, facility, or contract agency of the department. Secs. 2 and 3 of that version of the bill have been deleted.

Sec. 2 is all new material based in part on the New York Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. This section creates a new Article 5 in AS 47.10 that provides for review, inspection, and approval by the Department of Health and Social Services of private nonprofit residential and nonresidential programs for runaway minors and homeless youth.

Sec. 47.10.300 sets out the duties and powers of the department with respect to these runaway programs. These include approving or disapproving the programs, maintaining a register of approved programs, awarding grants to approved programs, submitting an annual report on runaways to the legislature and the governor, and adopting regulations.

Sec. 47.10.310 sets out the requirements for a program to be approved by the department. A program must be operated by an Alaskan nonprofit corporation; explain to a runaway his or her legal rights and responsibilities as a runaway and explain the services and assistance available from the program, the state, and the local municipality; try to deter-

mine why the minor is a runaway; provide or help obtain various services for runaway minors and, if appropriate, their families; inform the department if child abuse or neglect of the minor is claimed or reasonably suspected; operate with the goal of reuniting the runaway minor and family, unless that is contrary to the minor's health and welfare; and provide physical security and emergency services for residents of the program, and separate minors under 16 from those 16 and older.

Sec. 47.10.320 establishes limits on the duration of a runaway's residency in a program. The limits are 30 days without consent of the legal custodian, 60 days with consent, beyond 60 days with approval of department and the legal custodian's consent.

Sec. 47.10.330 requires the program director to notify a minor's legal custodian within 72 hours after the minor is admitted to the program, unless there are compelling circumstances justifying withholding notice. The legal custodian is also entitled to notice when the minor is released from the program if he or she is released into the custody of someone other than the custodian or the custodian's representative.

Sec. 47.10.340 provides for confidentiality of records that identify particular runaway minors who have been in the program or sought assistance from it. Exceptions are provided for instances in which the minor consents to disclosure of the records, when the records are relevant to an investigation or proceeding involving child abuse or neglect or a child in need of aid petition, and when disclosure is necessary to protect the life or health of the minor.

Sec. 47.10.350 provides complete immunity from civil and criminal liability for officers, directors, and employees of runaway programs with regard to admitting a person to a program or releasing a person from a program into the custody of someone other than the legal custodian or representative.

Sec. 47.10.360 exempts the runaway programs from licensing and regulation under AS 47.35, which is the chapter that provides for departmental licensing of foster homes, boarding homes, and other private institutions for the regular care of children and dependent adults.

Representative Ellis

Page 3

November 18, 1987

Sec. 47.10.390 defines "approved program for runaway minors" as a residential or nonresidential program approved by the department under AS 47.10.310, and defines "runaway minor" as a person under 18 who is evading the person's legal custodian (the traditional concept of a runaway minor) or as a person under 21 who is in need of services for the protection of health and welfare and who is without a place of shelter in which supervision and care of the person is available (based on New York State's concept of "homeless youth").

EHH:mkr  
m13/083

SB

115

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
907.465.3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

*House Hess:*

*March 17, 1987*

*March 25, 1987*

*April 3, 1987*



Official Business

**COMMITTEE:**

House HESS Committee

**DATE:** March 30, 1987

**SIGN-IN**

**Subject of meeting:**

HB 107 - Alaska Community Colleges  
 SCR 16 - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Week  
 HB 113 - Approp: Pupil Trans/Tuition Sup.  
 CSSB 115 - Approp: Pupil Trans/Tuition

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? & Which Bill
Brian Rogers	812 Gruening Bldg U of AK Fairbanks 99775	474 6490	U of A	HB 107 - will answer questions
Ralph Mikota	5889 Kanyhill Anchorage, AK 99509	562-2660	ACCFT	NO
Mary Stom	205 N. Franklin	586-1736	Gov's Council on Voc. Ed.	
Dale Shirk		586-1756	NAI	NO
BOB ARNOLD	1802 Glacier Hwy Juneau, Alaska	586-4372	self	no
Kurt Parkan	Boyer		Boyer	no
T. J. ...	310 J. ... Juneau	463-3771	C.B.I.	COMMITTEE
Clark Finning	217 Second Street Suite 204 Juneau	586-8110	C&B Juneau	if needed PCCSB 115

CSSB 115            An Act making supplemental appropriations to the Department of Education for pupil transportation, tuition students, multi-handicapped students, the Kotzebue Technical Center, and districts losing more than 10 percent of their foundation funding in a single year; and providing for an effective date

File Contents

- 1) Copy of CSSB 115
- 2) Pupil Transportation and Tuition Supplemental Appropriation with attachments
- 3) Paper by Rep. Boyer dated 3/17/87
- 4) House HESS minutes of 2/17/87



# NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503  
(907) 274-0536

## JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801  
(907) 586-3090

## FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701  
(907) 456-4435

March 10, 1987

To: Rep. Niilo Koponen & Rep. Johnny Ellis, Co-Chairs  
Members, House HESS Committee

Re: CS for Senate Bill No. 115 (Finance); "An Act making supplemental appropriations to the Department of Education for pupil transportation, tuition students, multi-handicapped students, the Kotzebue Technical Center, and districts losing more than 10 percent of their foundation funding in a single year; and providing for an effective date."

NEA-Alaska supports and encourages early passage of the CS for SB 115.

The recent reductions in the amount of state funding available to public schools through the funding formula has, in many instances, caused a serious reduction in the programs and services available to students.

With the immediate revenue prognosis being for continued constraints on the amount of funds which are available, it is essential that the state fulfill its commitment to the kind of programs and services addressed in CS for SB 115 so that other general fund monies will not have to be diverted to cover these kinds of costs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Manners  
Executive Secretary

BM49/dl

S B

123

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

House Hess:

May 12, 1987





No 293

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Version: SB123  
Publish Date: 2/12/87

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Education  
BRU: Postsecondary Commission

Title: Re: Agreements for Medical  
Education

Sponsor: Josephson and Faiks

Components: General Admin.

Requestor: Senate HESS

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	N.A.	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	N.A.	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Language is merely permissive. No staff or funding is required.

Prepared by: Kerry D. Romesburg  Phone: 465-2854  
Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

College of Natural Sciences



## UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA—FAIRBANKS

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

Department of Medical Sciences  
and WAMI Program  
April 24, 1987

Senator Paul Fischer  
Chair, Senate HESS Committee  
Room, 508, Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: SB 123, Cost to Alaska of WAMI  
trained physicians

Dear Senator Fischer:

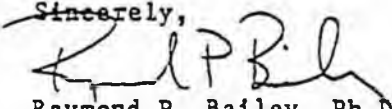
Thank you for your interest in the WAMI Program. During the HESS committee meeting on Wednesday, April 22, you asked about the total cost to Alaska for the WAMI physicians who have returned here to practice medicine. Only those students who entered the program before 1980 have had an opportunity to complete their training. Almost all students require seven or more years training before entering a practice (4 years medical school, plus 3 to 6 years residency and, in some cases, additional advanced training).

Thus far 143 students have entered the program. Of those, 42 have completed their residency training. Twenty-four graduates, or 57% of those free to do so, have returned to Alaska to practice. Another 23 doctors, trained in other WAMI states, have also chosen to practice in Alaska. Thus for every 10 physicians we train, 11 WAMI physicians come to Alaska to practice. We have two return rates: 57%, considering only Alaskan WAMIs; 110%, considering all WAMIs.

I would like to provide two answers to your request. The first is Alaska's ACTUAL cost for the WAMI physicians now in practice in Alaska. The second is the PROJECTED cost of future physicians from students currently enrolled (47), assuming the students, after they complete their training, will return at the same rate as prior students.

The attached Table I shows that students who entered the WAMI Program in the 70s are now back and practicing in Alaska. Considering the total cost to train all students who entered then, the cost to Alaska for the Alaskans who returned was \$167,255 per physician. Because other WAMIs also came to Alaska to practice, Alaska's actual cost per WAMI physician in Alaska was only \$85,407. Students who entered in the 1980s have not yet finished their training. But in projecting their cost to the State, and assuming the same rate of return, the cost per future physician will be \$267,777 for Alaskans only, and \$139,043 for all WAMI physicians.

Sincerely,

  
Raymond P. Bailey, Ph.D.

Director  
WAMI Medical Education Program

RPB/bm  
Attachment

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Table I.

Total Costs of WAMI Physicians in Alaska

I. ACTUAL (only students entering before 1980 can be included)

Total State Appropriation	Total Number of Students	Total Number Practicing in AK	Cost per Physician
4,014,122	42	24 Alaskans	167,255
4,014,122	42	47 Alaskans and other WAMIs	85,407

II. PROJECTED (students currently enrolled)

Total State Appropriation (FY87 to 90)	Total Number of Students	Total Number Projected to practice in Alaska	Cost per Physician
7,230,256	47	27 Alaskans	267,777
7,230,256	47	52 Alaskans and other WAMIs	139,043

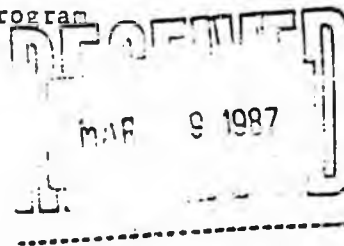


UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA—FAIRBANKS

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

WAMI Medical Education Program

March 5, 1987



Senator Joe Josephson  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Josephson:

I met with Don Behrend today here in Fairbanks, along with Ray Bailey of the WAMI Program. The University will be submitting a formal set of numbers to you in the next two weeks but, in general terms, the enclosed figures represent a close approximation. It is quite possible that the University of Washington may reduce these figures, but probably not in an appreciable manner.

If SB 123 were to pass, it would probably cause less disruption to the Program in the next year if it remained in Fairbanks, thus giving UAA time to do its other restructuring, and for us to have more time to get all of the support faculty on line in Anchorage. My reading is that the long range plan of the University of Alaska is for WAMI to be in Anchorage.

For the data specifically, please refer to Chart #1. It shows that the WAMI Program is costing the State of Alaska \$1,807,564 this current year. If the Program were to remain in Fairbanks next year with 10 freshman students, the cost would be \$1,792,564. This small decrease is due to a reduction in the operating cost of the community clinical units. If the Program were to move to Anchorage in the next year, there would be about a \$50,000 increase in that cost for both moving and coordination, bringing the cost to \$1,842,564, or \$35,000 over the current fiscal year.

The Regents have at this point agreed to an altered and reduced program with only 5 freshman students being accepted and sent to Seattle. It is indeed difficult to compare costs, since the thrust and concept are totally different. This configuration would thus cost \$1,235,644, all of which would go out of State to the University of Washington.

Thus, for purposes of Line Item funding for SB 123, I would feel that either \$1,792,564 or \$1,842,564 should be allocated. The Post Secondary Education Commission would receive this amount of money and then redistribute it as follows:

- \$1,322,166 to the University of Washington for years medical student years 2, 3 and 4
- \$470,398 to the University of Alaska for the freshman year
- \$50,000 to a transition fund should you elect the Anchorage option.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Senator Joe Josephson

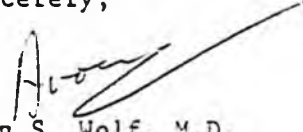
March 5, 1957

Page 2

I shall call you early next week to correlate this with you and your staff. I have a tentative meeting with Don Behrend and perhaps President O'Dowd on March 26 so that we could continue to work on this process. As you know, the more expeditiously this legislation can be accomplished, the more the integrity of the Program can be maintained by accepting new, high quality students for the Fall of 1957.

Thank you again for all of your help on this issue.

Sincerely,



Aron S. Wolf, M.D.

ASW/bm

c.c. Sen. Jan Faiks  
Rep. Nillo Koponen  
Rep. Johnny Ellis  
Provost Don Behrend  
Assoc. Prof. Bailey

WAHI BUDGET

Fiscal Year	Post Secondary Education Option 10 Freshman Students			University Option 5 Freshman Students
	FY87	FY88	FY88	FY88
Location of freshman students	Fairbanks	Fairhanks	Anchorage	Seattle
Number of Freshman students	10	10	10	5
Total number of students	48	48	48	43
State Appropriation				
To Univ. of Washington	1,337,166	1,322,166	1,322,166	1,235,644
To Univ. of Alaska	470,398	470,398	470,398	-0-
Moving Expenses	-0-	-0-	50,000	-0-
TOTAL BUDGET	1,807,564	1,792,564	1,842,564	1,235,644

# LIAISON COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

10/30  
10/11/83

Association of American Medical Colleges  
One Duane Circle, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

J. R. Scofield, M.D.  
LCME Secretary, 1982-83  
(202) 828-0570

Council on Medical Education  
American Medical Association  
535 North Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Edward S. Petersen, M.D.  
LCME Secretary, 1983-84  
(312) 751-6310

October 24, 1983

William P. Gerberding  
President  
University of Washington  
Mail Stop AH-30  
Seattle, Washington 98195

Dear President Gerberding:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the action of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and to transmit formally to you the report of the survey team representing it, which visited the University of Washington School of Medicine, April 14-21, 1983. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate and accredit the undergraduate program in medical education leading to the M.D. degree.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education at its meeting of Oct. 19-20, 1983 voted to confer continuing full accreditation for 5 years on the program in medical education leading to award of the M.D. degree. Therefore, the next survey will take place during the 1987-88 academic year. A self study will not be required.

Accreditation is awarded to the program of medical education on the basis of judgment that there is an appropriate balance between the size of the enrollment in each class and the total resources of the institution, including the faculty, physical facilities, and the operating budget. If there is developed a proposal to significantly modify the educational program, or if there is to be substantial change in the size of the enrollment of students or the resources of the institution so that the appropriate balance is distorted, the LCME expects to receive prior notice of the proposed change. If the proposed change of program and/or balance of resources is deemed significant, the status of accreditation will be re-evaluated by the Liaison Committee.

This term of accreditation is contingent upon satisfactory progress toward the solution of the following concerns:

- I. Status of WAMI Program:
  - a. continuation of fiscal support at adequate levels in Alaska, Montana, Idaho, and Eastern Washington;

William P. Gerberding  
October 24, 1983  
Page Two

- b. status of coordination of the programs, i.e., the role and functions of the coordinators, and who are the coordinators;
  - c. status of cooperation between the academic departments in Seattle and respective educational programs in WAMI sites, -- question of feed-back to WAMI coordinators on student performance in later courses, etc;
  - d. status of organization of the first year faculty into cohesive units, and recognition of faculty by the University of Washington;
  - e. status of effectiveness of the teaching program where a single faculty member does all the teaching in a discipline.
2. Status of the University of Washington School of Medicine (Seattle):
    - a. status of state support of the medical school; percent of each major source of fiscal support;
    - b. status of recruitment for vacant chairs in pediatrics and radiology; changes in other chairs since the site visit in 1983;
    - c. status of acceptance of pre-1983 changes in the curriculum, improvements in instruction in physical examination, status of acceptance of the grading system, access to the library and adequacy of career counseling.
  3. If the University of Alaska proceeds with its plan to relocate the first-year program from Fairbanks to Anchorage in autumn 1985, the March 1975 progress report should include a review of the resources available in Anchorage. The LCME may request that a limited site visit be made to the new activity in Anchorage in the late autumn of 1985.

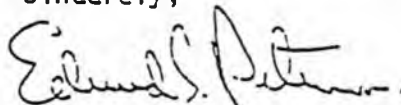
The efforts of the school directed toward solving these problems should be addressed in progress reports submitted to both secretaries of the LCME on March 1, 1985 and March 1, 1987. On the basis of its analysis of these reports, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education will review the term of accreditation set out above. This review may lead to an affirmation of the term specified, a request for additional reports, the scheduling of a limited resurvey, a change in the term of accreditation, or other action deemed appropriate by the committee.

William P. Gerberding  
October 24, 1983  
Page Three

A copy of this letter and of the survey report are being sent to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Robert F. Philip, and to the Dean of the School of Medicine, David C. Dale, M.D.

The report is considered confidential by the Liaison Committee and by its parent organizations. However, it is for the use of the School of Medicine and the University as directed by the best judgment of its officials.

Sincerely,



Edward S. Petersen, M.D.  
1983-84 LCME Secretary

ESP:kdm

cc: Robert F. Philip  
David C. Dale, M.D. ✓  
James R. Schofield, M.D.

Enclosure: Survey Report

## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE - ALASKA

UNIVERSITY PHASE -

Instruction in the subjects of the first year of the medical curriculum is arranged at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. Ten Alaskan students are enrolled annually; after finishing the first year the students proceed to the second year of studies in Seattle. Clinical clerking experiences and elective studies in the third and fourth years can be arranged either in Seattle or in any of the numerous sites where clerkships are arranged in Alaska, Idaho, Montana or Eastern Washington.

The University of Alaska in Fairbanks enrolls about 4,000 students. The WAMI faculty is attached to the Division of Life Sciences in the College of Environmental Sciences. Members of the faculty for the WAMI program are members of appropriate departments of the University of Alaska; only the Director, Dr. Wayne Myers, is appointed to the faculty of the University of Washington. The others are fractional time in the WAMI program and must satisfy local requirements for promotion or assignment of tenure. All faculty are hired on annual contracts for the WAMI program.

The small number of faculty for the WAMI program has resulted in very heavy teaching loads for those involved. In several subjects a single faculty person is responsible for the presentation of the entire course, with the result that little time remains for scholarly activity or biomedical research. Isolation of a single faculty member from other professorial members of the discipline further impedes professional growth and development.

The members of the departments in Seattle have responsibility to coordinate the general content of each course, to arrange for a common system of evaluation of the students' progress and to arrange for a substitute instructor in the event that the single, isolated faculty member in Fairbanks becomes ill. The faculty member in Fairbanks may visit the parent department in Seattle several times each year to discuss common concerns about the teaching program. Deans and faculty members from Seattle visit Fairbanks each year to review the educational activities and to consult with the students.

Necessary clinical backup for the first year Pathobiology and introduction to clinical medicine is arranged at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital (153 beds). The hospital, located in the center of the city, and about a 15 minute drive from the University campus is new, well equipped, and planning an expansion to about 200 beds.

Faculty members reported that their participation in both courses was going well. With four pathologists on the staff, time is available to assist with the provision of fresh material, and permit each student to participate in at least one autopsy. Physicians have found their patients most willing to cooperate in the introduction to clinical medicine course, that students have had ample opportunities for the introduction to History Taking and Physical Examination.

Other clinical teaching has been limited to some elective students in pathology. No residencies are conducted. The hospital is not affiliated even with the University of Alaska or the University of Washington, but this has apparently not caused a problem.

### CLINICAL PHASE - ANCHORAGE AND KETCHIKAN

Providence Hospital is a new (240-bed) community general hospital under religious sponsorship. It is located on the outskirts of Anchorage, in the proximity of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, the University of Alaska-Anchorage Campus and the campus of the Alaska Pacific University.

The obstetrical service is a busy one, with some 1,300 deliveries a year, and serving as the high-risk maternity center for Alaska. Some 24 students take the six week clerkship each year, three or four at a time. Students participate in around ten deliveries a week, and their presence has been well received by patients. The coordinator of the clerkship, Dr. Hedric B. Hanson, is assisted by some eight additional faculty members on the hospital staff. The student's workup and clinical activities are closely supervised by the attending physicians, and in addition some residents from the family practice residency at the Alaska Native Medical Center participate also. All students are required to prepare and present a half hour paper, towards the preparation of which the excellent Health Science Library located at the University of Alaska-Anchorage is most helpful.

Standard WAMI evaluations of the students work are carried out, and a final oral examination is given in Seattle.

### Third Year Psychiatric Clerkship - Alaska Psychiatric Institute

This 173-bed facility, operated by the state, serves as the major source of psychiatric care for the entire state.

The coordinator of the six week third year required clerkship is Dr. John Wreggit. He is assisted by some 13 faculty members, seven of them full-time at the institute, and others members of a private psychiatric group practice, the Langdon Institute. The clerkship is both in and outpatient in nature, on the inpatient service involving the study of around two new patients a week. In addition to the close supervision of the faculty, there is one resident on duty on a six month rotation from Seattle.

Patient interviews are video taped and evaluated. Experience with adolescent psychiatry, and with acute psychiatry on call two nights a week is included. Students keep a record of cases studied. The students consider this a prize clerkship, and both students and faculty feel that larger numbers could be accommodated.

Both of these residencies are much assisted by the adjacent location of the campus of the University of Alaska-Anchorage. Programs in Nursing and Allied Health are conducted here. As mentioned above, there is an excellent health science library. A conference was held with the Dean of the School of Nursing, who presently conducts a program for 45 B.S. graduates annually, to be increased to 50 upon completion of a new health science building. There are also M.S. programs for nurse practitioners, and mental health.

### Family Medicine Clerkship - Alaska Native Medical Center

This third or fourth year six week selective clerkship is based primarily at the Native Medical Center, but utilizes also the health care facilities located in native communities throughout the state. The Alaska Native Medical Center is a

177-bed hospital operated by the public health service, with an epidemiology laboratory of the CDC located in proximity. Dr. Thomas Nighswander is the coordinator of the clerkship, assisted by some 8 faculty members.

In addition to the operation of the hospital, the staff of the Alaska Native Medical Center conducts an ambulatory care program for around 15,000 native American residents of Anchorage and 33 other communities. Students in the clerkship participate in all activities, and are required to prepare a report on the environment, demography, and health services of a rural village. Around two students participate in the clerkship at one time.

#### Family Medicine Clerkship - Ketchikan

Ketchikan, with a population of 7,198, is the southern most city in Alaska. The clerkship is based primarily on the private practice of the coordinator, Dr. Hilbert Hendrickson, but also on the 36-bed Ketchikan General Hospital, and on a Native American Health Care Clinic operated by the public health service. Dr. Hendrickson is assisted by some seven other physicians and intermittently by family medicine residents. Around one or two students are assigned. All students are required to complete a community health care project and to present a final report at a staff meeting of the hospital. Projects have included industrial medical problems at some of the lumber industry plants in the area, native medical practices, and the like.

At both clinical sites, thorough arrangements have been made for the provision of transportation from and to Seattle, for housing, both for students and their spouses and for local transportation, provided by means of WAMI-owned vehicles. In general, Alaska resident students are given first priority so that they may arrange to take at least one of their required third and fourth year clerkships in Alaska.

#### Surveyors' Comments on the WAMI Program in Alaska

Basic science instruction in Fairbanks meets the prevailing university standard as measured by results on Part I of the National Board of Medical Examiners. However, the plan appears to have structural weaknesses, which have been outlined above. The result is a fragile program which could be damaged easily if any one of a series of potential events took place. The current director, Wayne Myers, M.D., is particularly able; should he leave the program it would be in serious jeopardy.

In an interview with President Jay Barton of the University of Alaska, the surveyors were told that a policy decision had been made to move the WAMI first year curriculum to Anchorage, where the newest branch of the University of Alaska now enrolls about 4,000 students, including nursing and social work students. Problems arising from a relocation include the necessity of the basic scientists to find purchasers for their homes in Fairbanks, need for a building on the University of Alaska-Anchorage Campus, and solution to housing needs for the ten students. While the setting in Fairbanks (100 miles below the Arctic Circle) is interesting, it cannot compare with the advantages available in Anchorage, where campus and hospitals are in close proximity. Anchorage is projected to grow toward a population of 300,000 (all Alaska has about 400,000 people now, while Fairbanks has about 23,000 population, down from about 40,000 while the Alaskan pipeline was under construction. The surveyors believe that concentration of basic science and clinical teaching activities in Anchorage, under a director properly empowered

by the University of Washington to provide local leadership to the program would bring improved stability.

#### Alaska Clinical Programs - In General

As stated above, the necessary clinical support for the first year teaching program in Fairbanks is excellent.

All clerkships conducted in Anchorage and Ketchikan were found to have sufficient and excellent faculty in charge, to be well supervised, and to provide the students with possibilities for abundant and appropriate study. The extensive involvement of the Native American Health Service is most commendable, and hopefully may lead eventually to an enhanced recruitment of medical students from the native American population.

In Anchorage, faculty members relate primarily to the departments in Seattle, and relatively little to one another. In view of the small number of students present, enhanced coordination of conferences and lectures among the several separate teaching programs would seem desirable.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98195

School of Medicine  
Office of the Dean

August 27, 1986

Dear Alaska Applicant:

Thank you for your application to the Alaska component of the University of Washington WAMI Regional Medical Education Program.

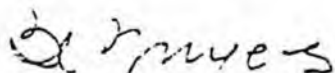
As you doubtless know, the University of Alaska System has suffered extremely serious cuts in its budget. The University of Alaska-Fairbanks will thus withdraw from the WAMI Program after the 1986-87 academic year. In an effort to continue to provide some support for Alaska residents to attend medical school, the University of Alaska Board of Regents has directed its administration to seek alternatives. One possible alternative will be to accept a smaller number of Alaska students for admission in 1987, with all four years of instruction being given in Seattle.

Accordingly, we recommend that you complete your application for admission to the University of Washington School of Medicine in the coming months as Alaska considers whether to continue in the Program. Interviewing for admission would normally begin in late December or early January. It is likely that the University of Alaska will have decided whether to continue participation in the Program by that time.

If Alaska withdraws from the WAMI Program, the University of Washington will consider Alaska applicants non-residents. In the last seven entering classes, the only non-resident students admitted have been Blacks, American Indians, Chicanos, and applicants to the Medical Scientist Training Program.

Nonetheless, I recommend that you complete your application to the University of Washington School of Medicine, realizing that the WAMI Program may or may not continue to admit Alaska residents. We will keep you informed of developments as this situation evolves.

Sincerely,



Wayne W. Myers  
Director, WAMI Program

WWM:sjm

S B

169

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title : An Act relating to the  
training of foster parents.  
Sponsor : Fischer  
Requestor : \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected : Health & Social Services  
BRU : \_\_\_\_\_  
Components : \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

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

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

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

N/A

Prepared by : Yvonne M. Chase, ACSW, Director  
Division : Family & Youth Services

Phone : 465-3170  
Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Commissioner : Iyrah M. Munson, Commissioner  
Agency : Health & Social Services

Date : 5/6/88

Distribution (by preparer) :

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

# Alaska State Legislature

Senator Paul A. Fischer  
Senate District D  
Box 784  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
(907) 262-9420 W  
262-9269 H



## State Senate

While in Juneau  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-3791

To: Representative Niilo Koponen &  
Representative Johnny Ellis  
Chairmen House HESS Committee

From: Senator Paul Fischer *PF*

Subject: SB 169, Foster Parent Training

Date: April 29, 1987

---

SB 169 would require potential foster parents to undergo training approved by the department before they are issued a license to run a foster home.

Many foster parents apply for licensing with the department hoping to contribute and help children in need of a stable home environment. Many of them are unaware of the time, commitment and potential problems both the foster child and the Division of Family & Youth Services might impose upon them.

It has been well established that foster parents who know what they are getting into are much more likely to go the distant without "burning out" due to the unanticipated trials and tribulations of foster care. Unanticipated burn-outs are very disruptive for both the child and the foster parents.

The subjects of such training might include:

- legalities and liabilities of foster care,
- often present problems of foster children, and
- services and role of DFYS.

Foster care is the most cost effective and practical care available for displaced children. The only other alternative is some type of institutional care which does not provide the same nurturing of a home environment, not to mention the prohibitive expense.

Attached please find a more detailed description of the courses content.

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 4/3/87

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

DATE: 5/6/87

The Health, Education and Social Services Committee has considered

HB 242

"An Act relating of the training of foster parents."

**RECOMMENDS:**

- replace with CS HB 242  the same title
- attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:**  \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

- fiscal impact  same as previous fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

*Roll E. Kelly*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Bryce A. Hawley*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*J. Ellis*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Nita Kapanen*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Bill Anderson*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*David D. Bailey*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Mark Greenberg*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

*J. Ellis*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 NCC - Chairman's signature  
*(Nita Kapanen)*

POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 169

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS), within the Department of Health and Social Services, has primary responsibility for foster placements. On June 30, 1986, there were 738 children in foster care and 948 state licensed foster homes.

The Division is very supportive of foster parent training. Placement in out-of-home care is, unfortunately, a reality for many of Alaska's children, and if they are to receive not only the food, shelter and nurturance that they need, but an environment which will assist them in meeting their own special needs, training for foster parents is not only important, but essential.

The goal of foster parent training is to increase knowledge, and enhance skills of foster parents to work with children who usually enter foster care with a number of emotional and behavioral disturbances. These children often require specialized skills and foster parents, as significant participants in the child welfare service delivery system, are better equipped to participate as an active member of the service team when appropriately trained. In addition, national studies in other states have shown that foster parent retention is significantly lengthened when foster parents receive appropriate training.

There is no simple formula for determining who has the greatest need and the Department is supportive of a requirement of a minimal level of training which will be required of all foster parents. The Division of Family and Youth Services is presently developing foster care regulations which will be ready for public hearing by July 1, 1987. All foster parents statewide will receive a copy of the proposed regulations and will have the opportunity to comment on the appropriateness and feasibility of training requirements, especially in rural locations. Through regulations, levels of training for different types of care and different geographical areas of the State can be established.

RECOMMENDED:

Yvonne M. Chase  
Yvonne M. Chase, Director  
Division of Family  
and Youth Services

DATE:

April 10, 1987

APPROVED:

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

DATE:

April 15, 1987

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Version: CS SB 169  
Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An Act relating to the  
training of foster parents.  
Sponsor: Fischer  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services  
BRU: Child and Youth Custody  
Components: Foster Care

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

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

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

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

n/a

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director  
Division: Division of Family and Youth Services

Phone: 465-3170  
Date: 4/9/87

Approved by Commissioner: Myra M. Munson, Commissioner  
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Date: 4/15/87

Distribution (by preparer):

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



# Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 140651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508



FEB 13 1987

## MANDATORY TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENTS 1987

This issues is a continuing priority of Alaska Foster Parent Association to promote the best care and treatment possible for children and youth in foster care.

### POSITION:

A bill must be introduced and passed to require education for foster parents and must include:

1. Initial training (orientation) before licensing including all pertinent information on agency policies, what to expect from foster children/youth, and well-rounded information on all aspects of foster care.
2. Ongoing in-service training with a minimum of 15 hours per family per year, with a minimum of 5 hours per adult. The type of training needs to be flexible so foster parents can acquire knowledge they need to care for the type of children they take, and to allow for various training modes (such as books, community education, video tapes, etc.)

### JUSTIFICATION:

See problem statement on next page. Mandatory initial and in-service training will not only provide better care and treatment for children, but helps prevent burn-out of foster parents. In states where mandatory training has been effect for several years, they find that fewer foster parents are recruited, but more experienced and knowledgeable foster parents remain in the program with an overall result of the same numbers of foster parents. However, those foster parents are experienced and take less time from the agency and the community. It reduces costs for continual recruitment.

Regulation changes have been proposed by two task forces and Alaska Foster Parent Association since 1984, but we feel this must have the force of law to implement.

**FUNDING:** Currently AFPA has a statewide training grant for \$105,000., which is part of the funds allocated in the DFYS budget for support and training of foster parents that has existed for at least 4 years. Part of those funds have been used for other purposes, but could be reallocated for training. Other training is available, so additional funds should not be required for at least a initial program that could be later expanded as needed.



# Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 8651 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

January 1985

## MANDATORY TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENTS



**PROBLEM:** Prospective foster parents are being licensed and receiving children/youth without understanding the unique problems and care needed by children/youth in foster care; understanding the foster care system with its regulations and policies that affect the every day life of the foster parent and children; or a real commitment to the realities of foster care.

Children/youth who are in foster care have unique problems not usually encountered by the raising of your own children because of the life situations resulting in their placement in foster care. Their attitudes, ideas, development level (including emotional and educational, as well as physical), concepts of the world are impaired. They are from neglective, abusive, alcoholic, manipulative situations--disfunctional families. Foster parents need the knowledge to be able to deal with situations, feelings, and concepts the average parent will never encounter.

Since children/youth in foster care are in the custody of the Division of Family & Youth Services, or private agencies, foster parents must operate their families according to the laws, regulations, policies and procedures of the state plus coordinate their dealings with the youth with the social worker.

Foster parents "burn-out" quickly in the realities of dealing with disfunctional families and their children if they are not very prepared in what to expect and how to deal with those situations. If a foster family quit a child/youth must be moved, or the family finds they cannot deal with certain situations that are common to foster children/youth. If agency policies are not known or understood foster families "give up" or are eased out of the system--again to the detriment of children/youth.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Division of Family & Youth Services is contemplating adding foster care training to regulations, but we feel it must have the force of a law change to insure inclusion.

The law (bill) should include 3 factors:

1. Initial training before licensing including all pertinent information on agency policies, what to expect from children, and well rounded information on "What is Foster Parenting".
2. Ongoing training with a minimum of 15 hours per family--5 minimum per adult.
3. Inability to be waived for certain families or locations.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Similar recommendation to the Division of Family & Youth Service from the 1977-78 Foster Family Care Task Force.  
Expanded recommendation with specific topics of training

Add to Foster Care regulations:

- (1) Prospective foster parents shall attend pre-licensing training. This training should contain the following information:
  - a. What is Foster Parenting  
Emergency, short and long term care  
Why and how children arrive in Foster care  
How Foster children differ from natural children
  - b. How children react to placement  
Separation issues
  - c. Agency expectations  
Roles, rights and responsibilities of:  
Social workers  
Placement agency  
Foster parents
  - d. Natural parents  
Visitations  
Feelings and attitudes  
Parental rights
  - e. Legal issues  
Legal status of child/youth  
Juvenile judges and Guardian ad Litem  
Foster parent legal issues:  
Placement and Licensing appeals  
Foster parent Bill of Rights
  - f. Placement issues  
Information needed at placement:  
Medical release  
Medicaid coupons  
Clothing vouchers  
Billing authorizations  
Emergency placements  
Foster parent stipend:  
Philosophy and use
  - g. Discipline
  - h. Licensing procedure  
Application  
Standard by standard  
Home visit  
Foster parent handbook
- (2) To remain licensed, foster care givers must acquire a minimum of 15 hours of on-going training relating to foster care; to be shared between the adult care givers with a minimum of 5 hours for each adult. This training may be acquired through:
  - a. local foster parent educational meetings
  - b. Agency sponsored training sessions
  - c. Alaska Foster Parent Association conferences and/or workshops
  - d. Areawide foster parent conferences co-sponsored by Alaska Foster Parent Association and local associations
  - e. National Foster Parent Association conferences and/or workshops
  - f. Community offered child/youth related training
  - g. Institutes of higher learning
  - h. Books, films, video tapes related to foster care and/or child/youth management
- (3) This regulation is unable to be waived. Each area agency is responsible to maintain materials and offer information and training free of charge to prospective and currently licensed foster parents.



*House*  
 TESTIMONY FOR ~~SENATE~~ HESS COMMITTEE  
~~MARCH 10, 1987~~

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to request your total support for ~~SB 155~~, to provide for training for foster parents.

*HB 242*  
 Alaska Foster Parent Association has been actively seeking an addition to statutes and regulations to require training of foster parents for the past 7 years. We believe that orientation and ongoing training will greatly upgrade the quality of services provided to children and youth in the foster care system.

A research project was completed in approximately 1980 through the Social Work Department of the University of Alaska, Anchorage that explored why foster parents really quit being foster parents. A high percentage of former foster parents stated that foster care was not what they thought it was going to be or they did not know how to cope with all the various aspects of foster caring, therefore they resigned. When a foster parent quits it usually results in a move of their foster children to another home, which damages the children emotionally, not to even mention the feelings of guilt, failure, and defeat of both the foster parents, their family, and foster children. Another research paper completed in 1986 in Juneau showed training to be a high priority of both foster parents and social workers.

Training for foster parents, nationwide, has been found to have the following benefits:

1. Preventing or reducing the movement of children between foster homes.
2. Retention of foster parents, therefore, more stable placements of children and more experienced foster homes available to accept placement of children.
3. Foster parents who can take more responsibility, therefore, relieving the social worker who must deal with crisis first and ongoing needs as they can find time.
4. Insuring foster parents know how to meet the needs of the children and youth placed with them--therefore providing treatment and help to those children rather than childcare.
5. Enhances the ability of foster parents to work as team members with others involved with the child, including the birth parent, social worker, psychologist, teachers, etc.

*HB 242 2/12*

6. Enables foster parents to detect potential or actual problem areas before they escalate, therefore enhancing prevention of future abuse, neglect, delinquency, or other problems that will cost the state even more to treat.

Over half of the other states in the United States have mandatory training requirements for foster homes in recognition of these benefits.

Alaska Foster Parent Association and its 10 local chapters support this bill as written. We wish to point out a few features of this bill:

It requires potential foster parents to receive initial orientation to prepare them to be foster parents and to screen out those applicants for which foster care is not what they thought it was. The many states that have this mandatory orientation have found that fewer foster parents are licensed, but those that are licensed stay longer in the system and are capable of handling more difficult children, therefore actually increasing the numbers of foster parents in a couple of years time.

This bill also requires each foster family to acquire 15 hours of ongoing training per year, with each adult to acquire a minimum of 5 hours. This will insure that all adults in the household have a good base of knowledge about issues in fostering. This requirement should be easily reached by existing and future foster families through resources already available--we are not asking for the Department to provide this training, as we feel the resources are already available in most communities and can be tapped by foster parents based on the area they feel they need more information. For example, a foster parent taking teens would find in the community workshops or classes dealing with things such as discipline, alcohol or drugs, or teen pregnancies. A foster family working with sexually abused children would look for classes on detecting or treating the sexually abused child.

This bill should not require any fiscal notes. For orientation we have licensing workers and experienced foster parents who can facilitate orientation training using prepared curriculums such as NOVA training from NOVA University or ISSUES IN FOSTERING from Eastern Michigan University. Several DFYS offices throughout the state are currently providing such training using licensing worker-foster parent co-trainers in the evening once a week and giving that licensing worker comp-time the next morning. This would require no new funding.

For ongoing training most communities have numerous training workshops, seminars, or classes each year through such places as crisis centers, sexual abuse or women's centers, native organizations, mental health, colleges, etc. Alaska Foster Parent Association has a \$105,000. contract to provide training statewide, which offers a state conference of 12-20 hours of training, a newsletter with educational

materials quarterly, local training conferences in at least 10 areas of the state, and local associations which host monthly training sessions of approximately 2 hours each. AFPA has also developed a packet of 15 training flyers to cover most aspects of foster care and has a library of books and materials for hand-out or lending. Most training on the state level has been video-taped and is available to local associations or to individuals. Numerous books, curriculums, and video and cassette tapes could be available to foster parents who cannot reach other training. AFPA has explored the idea of having videoed training put on educational television particularly to the bush communities, and also translating many materials into the various languages of Alaska.

It would be ideal if the contract amount with Alaska Foster Parent Association was increased, to better meet our goals of training, BUT we can minimumly meet mandantory training with existing funds in the DFYS budget.

We encourage you to support SB-169 and to pass it out of committee today. The Foster children and youth of Alaska deserve to have the best care possible, which is through trained, knowledgeable, and experienced foster parents.

If you have further questions I would be happy to answer or feel free to contact AFPA legislative liason Miriam Sumner. Thank you.

HB 242



*Handwritten notes:* It was signed by local FPA... agency. It reads!

Your packets should include a copy of a petition signed by 41 individuals, 12 representing local FPA or agencies that we urge you to consider

Miriam Sumner

SB

195

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*****
*
* DELIVER TO: LHSCCLM
*
* ORIGINAL
* SENT: 05/12/87 TIME: 10:59
* FROM: LIOCSSC
* SUBJECT: FINAL STATS, ANC, 5-12
* PRINT DATE: 05/12/87 TIME: 10:59
*
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\*\*\* FINAL TELECONFERENCE STATISTICS \*\*\*

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DATE: _____MAY 12, 1987_____
SITE: _____ANCHORAGE_____
SPONSOR: _____HOUSE HESS COMMITTEE_____
SUBJECT: _____PLUTONIUM SHIPMENTS\AIDS TREATMENT_____
LOCAL MODERATOR: _____DAVID J_____

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\*\*\*\*\*

TESTIFIED:

	NAME\REPRESENTING	ADDRESS	PHONE #
SB 195	MARVIN BAILEY--DPH	MUNICIPALITY OF ANCH	561-4406
	GARY BLEDSOE--DPH	" "	276-2864
	ELIZABETH WARD--DPH	" "	465-3090
HR 35	DR. LAWRENCE WEISS	417 W 8TH AVENUE ANCH	276-2864
HR 35	CHRIS TOAL-SANE ALASKA	3605 ARCTIC BLVD ANCH	274-4648

\*\*\*\*\*

OBSERVED:

NAME\REPRESENTING	ADDRESS	PHONE #
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# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

5/14

(7)

Date referred: 5/4/87

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

The Health, Education and Social Services Committee has considered CSSB 195(Fin)

"An Act making an appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services, division of public health, for the Alaska AIDS program; and providing for an effective date."

**RECOMMENDS:**

- replace with \_\_\_\_\_  the same title
- attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:**  House HESS letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):**

- fiscal impact  same as previous fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

Reed E. Kelly  
Steve Sawyer  
W. Ellis  
Vito...  
Bill...  
Max...

**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

David Donly NO REC  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

W. Ellis  
 Co-Chairman's signature

SENATE

Letter of Intent

CSSB 195 (FIN)

It is the intent of the Legislature that the programs funded by the Division of Public Health for AIDS education in the public school system be approved by the locally elected school boards to stress abstinence as the only totally effective preventive method and be directed at junior and senior high school students. Parental consent shall be required to participate in AIDS education programs. Funds are not included under this appropriation for the purchase or distribution of prophylactic devices.

Adopted 5/1/87.

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

**REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Version: SB 195  
Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: "An Act Making an Appropriation  
for the Alaska AIDS Program"  
Sponsor: HESS Committee  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services  
BRU: State Health Services

Components: Epidemiology, Nursing,  
Laboratories

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES		225.5				
TRAVEL		50.0				
CONTRACTUAL		100.0				
SUPPLIES		120.0				
EQUIPMENT		2.5				
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>		<b>498.0</b>				

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

GENERAL FUND		498.0				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME		5.0				
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Elizabeth Ward, M.N., Director *E.W.*  
Division: Division of Public Health

Phone: 465-3090  
Date: 4/23/87

Approved by Commissioner: *Myles H. Munson*  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4/23/87

Distribution (by preparer):

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

BUDGET ANALYSIS

Personal Services \$225.5

The five new full-time positions being requested are as follows: 92.0

2-Microbiologist II positions (Fairbanks) (\$46 x 2 = \$92.0)

These two positions will provide the laboratory support necessary to process the HIV specimens.

1-Data Processing Clerk position (Fairbanks) This position will provide the data entry and clerical support necessary to the laboratory for the processing of the HIV specimens. 30.6

1-Education Specialist II (Anchorage) This position will provide for the development and implementation of an AIDS curriculum for Alaskan schools. 59.7

1-Public Health Representative (Anchorage) This position will assist with the overall coordination of AIDS activities throughout the state, including screening, training, and health education. 43.2

Travel \$50.0

Includes \$20.0 for an AIDS training seminar for State PHN's from select communities. It will provide training to State PHN's to do screening, counseling and to assist with AIDS Health Education/Risk Education Programs in school districts and communities state-wide. It also provides for travel for the Education Specialist, Public Health Representative, and other staff involved in AIDS activities.

Contractual \$100.0

Phones, postage and printing. 55.0

AIDS Health Educator (contract) 45.0

Supplies \$120.0

Health Educational materials

Equipment \$2.5



COMMITTEE REPORT  
SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

4/27/87

Date 4-28-87

Mr. President:

The Committee on Rules considered SB 195

appropriation to the Department of Health & Social Services,  
division of public health, for the Alaska AIDS program; efd.

and recommended it be placed on the 5-1-87 Calendar

with attached amendment(s).

recommend  
 replace with CS for SB 195 (fin)  same title  
 new title

and attached a Letter of Intent

new fiscal note

MEMBERS SIGNING FOR PLACEMENT  
ON THE CALENDAR

MEMBERS HAVING OTHER  
RECOMMENDATIONS

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
   
   
 

[Signature]  
CHAIRMAN

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

*Paul F. Fisher*

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

Date of 3/16/87 5-DAY NOTICE  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIFORM RULE 23

FURTHER:

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

3/18/87 DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 4/27/87  
Mr. President:

FINANCE Committee considered SB 195

appropriation to the Department of Health & Social Services,  
division of public health, for the Alaska AIDS program; efd.

and recommended:

replace with CS SB 195 (FIN)  same title  
 attached amendment(s) and  new title

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

letter of intent adopted and attached

\*\* Committee  attached or  adopted fiscal note(s)  
 zero  fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

*Paul F. Fisher*  
*Jim DeWitt*  
*Paul Fisher*  
*John Kelly*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Committee Backup Attached <sup>CO</sup> Chairman signature and recommendation <sup>DO</sup> PASS

BSN: 271

ALASKA SENATE  
CS SB 195 FIN 3RD

1ST SESSION 15TH LEG

5/ 1/87 12: 8 PM

	18 YEAS	0 NAYS	1 EXC	1 ABS	
Y	ABOOD	Y	FAIKS	Y	KERTTULA
Y	BENNETT	Y	FISCHER	Y	RODEY
Y	BINKLEY	Y	HALFORD	Y	STURGULEWSKI
Y	COGHILL	Y	HENSLEY	Y	SZYMANSKI
Y	DUNCAN	E	JONES	Y	UEHLING
Y	ELIASON	Y	JOSEPHSON	Y	ZHAROFF
A	FAHRENKAMP	Y	KELLY		

+ VOTED FOR  
\* CHANGED VOTE

POSITION PAPER

SENATE BILL NO. 195

For "An Act making an appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, for the Alaska AIDS program, and providing for an effective date."

This act appropriates \$698,000 from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Service, Division of Public Health, for the Alaska AIDS program.

Background

Through March 31, 1987, 34 Alaskans have been confirmed to have AIDS and 20 of them are known to have died. All AIDS patients have been members of identified high risk groups.

<u>Location</u>		<u>Age Group</u>
Anchorage	- 20	<20 - 1
Juneau	- 6	20-29 - 8
Fairbanks	- 1	30-39 - 12
Kenai	- 2	40-49 - 10
Dillingham	- 2	50+ - 3
Other Alaskan Communities	- 3	

Risk Group

- Homosexual or bisexual men - 27
- Heterosexual with contact with a person with AIDS or at-risk for AIDS - 2
- Transfusion with blood/blood products - 3
- Hemophilia - 1

Since 1985, the Division of Public Health has established eight sites in order to make accessible to Alaskans blood testing to detect infection with HIV. Through January 1, 1987, 132 of 2448 (5.4%) individuals tested were positive for HIV infection. HIV test results by risk category include:

<u>Risk Category</u>	<u>HIV RESULTS</u> <u>#positive/#tested (%)</u>	
Homosexual or Bisexual	112/623	(18.0)
IV Drug User	6/210	(2.9)
Hemophilia/Coagulation Disorder	2/2	(100.0)
Heterosexual Contact with person with AIDS or at risk for AIDS	2/228	(0.9)
Transfusion with blood/blood products	1/41	(2.4)
All others	9/1344	(0.7)

- ° The number of AIDS cases continues to rise. It is now estimated that in 1991, 270,000 Americans will develop AIDS and 179,000 will have died of AIDS. More than 1.5 million Americans are believed now to be infected with the AIDS virus - one half may develop AIDS. Epidemiologic studies have shown that heterosexuals increasingly are becoming infected and that heterosexual transmission of the virus occurs more easily than initially suspected.
- ° Experts believe it unlikely that a vaccine against AIDS will be available or drugs to cure AIDS will be discovered in the next five years - or even longer.
- ° The National Research Council and Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences published a major work after reviewing all available information about AIDS "Confronting AIDS, Directions for Public Health, Health Care, and Research." These experts have called for a major nationwide response to AIDS, recommending federal government expenditures of \$1 billion per year for research and \$1 billion per year for disease prevention education.
- ° Surgeon General Koop issued his landmark report on AIDS and stated that "...education concerning AIDS must start at the lowest grade possible... There is now no doubt that we need sex education in schools and that it must include information on heterosexual and homosexual relationships. The threat of AIDS should be sufficient to permit a sex education curriculum with a heavy emphasis on prevention of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases."
- ° We must continue and strengthen our present program. We must stop considering only the number of positive AIDS cases and begin to focus on HIV infection. HIV infection is a far more serious problem; for every positive AIDS case, experts estimate that 50 others have been infected with and carry the virus and they are capable of infecting others.
- ° We must increase screening for HIV infection and counseling for individuals who are infected or are members of high risk groups. This should also help assure the continued screening of rural Alaskans for Hepatitis B which can also be transmitted sexually.
- ° We must implement the National Academy of Science and Surgeon General's recommendations to provide education concerning AIDS in our schools at the lowest grade possible.

Position

The Department of Health and Social Services strongly supports this bill because it will enable Alaskans to respond appropriately to the growing AIDS epidemic and will provide funds necessary to reduce transmission of the virus and prevent Alaskans from becoming infected with this lethal disease.

**POSITION PAPER/Department of Health & Social Service**

Recommended by:

Elizabeth Ward

Elizabeth Ward, M.N.  
Director  
Division of Public Health

Date:

4/1/87

Approved by:

Myra M. Munson

Myra M. Munson  
Commissioner  
Department of Health  
and Social Services

Date:

Apr 1, 1987

Doris Young  
P.O. Box 596  
Douglas, AK 99824  
364-2225

May 5, 1987

Representative Johnny Ellis, Co-chair  
Representative Niilo Koponen, Co-chair  
House Health, Education  
and Social Services Committee  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99824

RE: SB 195 - The importance of developing an effective public education program on AIDS in Alaska.

Dear Sirs:

As you know, the AIDS appropriation bills, SB 195 and HB 191, are awaiting review by the House HESS Committee. Here are some statistics to consider when weighing the importance of these bills:

312 Alaskans of 2,448 tested for AIDS in 1985 and 1986 have tested positive for the virus. This means 5.4% of the population of Alaska has AIDS, has AIDS-related symptoms (or ARC), or has been exposed to the disease and has not developed any symptoms at all.

Of the 33 cases that have been affirmatively diagnosed in Alaska with AIDS, 20 have died.

It has been very convenient to recognize the AIDS virus as a "homosexual" or "drug-user" disease. Statistics show that 10% of all men in the United States are bisexual. Two of the 33 documented Alaska cases, that is 6% of Alaskans with AIDS, were women who contracted AIDS from contact with bisexual men.

The number of AIDS cases in Alaska increased 275% in one year: 1985-86. Alaska had the 7th highest increase rate in the United States. By 1991 there will be 270,000 diagnosed cases of AIDS in the United States and 179,000 of those will have died.

These statistics are very scary. One thing that makes them less scary is the fact that the virus can not be caught casually. Most commonly it is CONTRACTED THROUGH SPECIFIC TYPES OF BEHAVIOR: unsafe sexual habits and IV drug use.

It is clear from a survey published on April 24, 1987, by the Division of