

To: Policymakers  
From: Kate Aronson  
Subject: Implementing Changes in the Child Welfare System in Alaska

The child welfare system in Alaska is in need of reform to better meet the needs of children and families in the state. In 2020, there were over 5,000 reports of child abuse or neglect in Alaska, and the rate of children in foster care has been increasing in recent years (Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 2020). It is crucial that policymakers take action to address these issues and improve outcomes for children and families in Alaska's child welfare system.

One potential policy change that could improve the child welfare system in Alaska is the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). This policy provides funding for evidence-based preventive services and aims to keep children safe in their home and out of the foster care system (FFPSA, 2018). By implementing this policy in Alaska, we will mitigate present safety concerns in the home, prevent new instances of abuse or neglect from occurring, and through positive caregiver behavioral changes, ultimately improve outcomes for children and families across the state.

Implementing the FFPSA in Alaska could significantly improve the child welfare system in the state. These policies have the potential to reduce the number of children entering the foster care system, improve outcomes for children and families who are already involved in the child welfare system, and prevent families from re-entering the system in the future. It is important that policymakers consider these policy options and take action to implement them in order to better meet the needs of children and families in the child welfare system in Alaska.

#### References:

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. (2020). Child abuse and neglect in Alaska. Retrieved from <https://www.hss.state.ak.us/pdf/dcs/ChildAbuseNeglectAK.pdf>

Family First Prevention Services Act. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1892/text>