

Testimony
Senate Bill 2029 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 5, 2011

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Tara Lea Muhlhauser, Director of the Children and Family Services Division of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you with information regarding Senate Bill 2029.

The Pilot Program for short-term shelter, assessment and intervention provides necessary services to youth and families to prevent placements in foster care. This concept of providing emergent services to address the child's needs, and the family concerns in this pilot period have demonstrated that 76% of the youth receiving services in this program did not enter foster care within 180 days of exit from the program. Further, this demonstrates that providing immediate and focused shelter and assessment services to youth and families at the time of crisis is both an effective intervention and a cost effective practice.

The Department looks forward to continuing our work with this initiative in the next biennium.

I am available to answer any questions you have.