

Testimony
House Bill 1092 – Department of Human Services
Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Dave Nething, Chairman
February 26, 2007

Chairman Nething, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Tara Lea Muhlhauser, Deputy Director of the Children and Family Services Division and Program Administrator for Child Protective Services, of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to offer support for this bill.

We participated in the Juvenile Policy Board and were actively involved in drafting various sections of this bill. Our relationship with the legal system and process, specifically Juvenile Court, is integral to our ability to protect children, provide permanency for children and address their well-being. The changes proposed allow us additional tools to achieve these goals with greater efficiency and in conformity with federal requirements and federal law (Indian Child Welfare Act).

When this bill was heard in the House we offered an amendment that is now included into this engrossed bill. I would be available to address any questions about this section, or any other questions you have. Thank you for this opportunity.