



April 1st, 2020

Governor Dunleavy,

On behalf of current and former foster youth across Alaska, we are writing to request that you grant a moratorium on youth aging out of foster care with the Office of Children's Services until June 30th to insure the safety and stability of these young people during uncertain times.

Alaska already has extended foster care (and re-entry) to age 21, as a response to the dismal outcomes faced by youth aging out to homelessness, incarceration, and heavy reliance on social service systems¹.

Today, there are 14 youth aged 20 in foster care with the Office of Children's Services across the state. These vulnerable young people deserve an adequate transition as they make their way into adulthood.

A moratorium on youth aging out of foster care would permit these youth to remain in the custody and care of the Office of Children's services beyond age 21 until June, allowing them a fair shot at transitioning to adulthood.

Other states have already granted moratoriums at the direction of their state governments². Alaska is set to receive 1.25 billion dollars to offer relief during the COVID19 pandemic. A small portion of this could be directed to make a big impact on some of the most vulnerable Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration,

Angel Gonzales
FFCA Board President

FFCA Statewide Youth Leadership Board-Anna Redmon, Abigail Redmon, Tristan Thompson, Angel Montgomery, Daneyell Bolling, Eva Denison, Skye McCaa

FFCA Board of Directors-Amanda Metivier, Sarah Redmon, Betsy Baker, Randy Virgin, Barb Malchick, Janine Reep, Sharity Sommer, Susan Soule, Andrea Conter, Monica Hinson Wilson, Beth Ross, Tashina Duttle, Angel Gonzales

¹ <https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/alaska-fosteringyouthtransitions-2018.pdf>

² <https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/child-welfare-2/coronavirus-child-welfare-and-juvenile-justice-a-running-thread/41272?fbclid=IwAR2R9gus8NGGwY2t1wFy4rtjH-H-SfxvbBXwq24xN6ntBoQIPacFNgcMu3U>

Cc: DHSS Commissioner Adam Crum, DHSS Deputy Commissioner Clinton Lasley, Office of Children's Services Director Natalie Norberg