

• Rep. Tom Brice's Human Services Alert •
A legislative update about the Health and Social Services Department
from the Office of Representative Tom Brice

House Finance Sub-Committee on the HSS budget convenes on Monday

The beginning of the budget cycle begins at 8am on Monday. The committee will be reviewing two divisions a day and ultimately will create the FY 01 HSS budget from those discussions. While the budget discussions are just starting it is imperative to keep contacting members of the budget subcommittee and stress the importance of health and social service programs to the state.

HSS Budget Sub-Committee members

Rep. Brice, Rep. Kemplen, Rep. Therriault, Rep. Dyson, Rep. Whitaker,
Rep. Cowdery

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Bills of interest

HB 321 – Confidentiality of CINA Hearings and Records, by Governor Knowles

This bill would open child protection hearings to the public. It would also allow the Division of Family and Youth Services to disclose more information and publicly discuss cases. While opening the process to the public and increasing public access to DYFS records is laudable we must not forget the child. These are “child protection” statutes. Children who are the subjects of these statutes have enough chaos and turmoil in their lives without adding to it through public discussion of their families’ shortcomings. This bill must be carefully considered from not only the agency perspective but the child’s perspective as well. HB 321 is currently in the House HESS Committee. No hearings have been scheduled.

HB 260 – Medical Assistance Program Coverage by Representative Coghill

This bill would undo Denali Kidcare. The bill is in the House HESS Committee. The bill has been rescheduled for Tuesday February 8th at 3:00 PM and it will be teleconferenced into the Fairbanks LIO. Keep up the pressure and be sure to testify.

How to Contact Representative Brice

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