

# 31<sup>ST</sup> *Alaska State Legislature*

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*Senator John Coghill*

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### SB 223 – CHILDREN OF ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS

This bill adds a provision to AS 47.17.030, Action on reports; termination of parental rights, which requires the Office of Children's Services (OCS) to notify a designated authority at a duty station of an active military member, if a report of harm has been received concerning a child of that armed forces member. It further prohibits this designated authority from disclosing confidential information to unauthorized persons.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has established the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) to assist active military personnel in preventing child abuse and neglect and to respond to reports of harm involving children of military personnel. With OCS being required to notify the DoD's Family Advocacy Program, FAP will be better able to aid Alaskan military families going through turbulent times.

Tammie Perreault, the Northwest Regional Liaison for the Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, requested the introduction of this bill to emphasize the need to support consistent agreements of understanding between OCS and the DoD and assist DoD in fulfilling its statutory obligations by eliminating state statutory barriers that inhibit the communications between OCS and DoD.