



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Director's Office

P.O. Box 110630
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0630
Main: 907.465.3170
Fax: 907.465.3397

May 1st, 2017

Dear Alaskan Resource Families,

It is official, spring has sprung and with the warmer months ahead of us I am reminded of how busy we all become with family summer activities. During the month of May, many of you may be attending graduations for both the young and the old, planting your gardens, inventorying your camping/fishing gear and preparing for your families summer outdoor excursions and subsistence activities.

Governor Bill Walker has proclaimed the month of May to be recognized as **Foster Parent Appreciation Month**. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of our foster, adoptive, guardianship and relative families for your dedication, compassion and commitment to the children for which you care. Your willingness to open your home and lives to a child in need truly has a positive impact on the families and communities we serve. We would be lost without your selfless giving and continued patience in working with agency that is not always easy to navigate.

I am also pleased to announce during the month of May, the Office of Children's Services in partnership with the Resource Family Advisory Board (RFAB) has finalized the Alaska's first Resource Family Bill of Rights. The Resource Family Bill of Rights covers 13 key areas including items such as; communication, placement, permissions, etc. The Resource Family Bill of Rights is another useful tool for families when navigating the child welfare system. It is our hope the Bill of Rights will provide clarification on many of the day to day questions that arise for our resource families. I have enclosed a copy for your review and future use.

Again, thank you for choosing to be a resource family and from me and all my staff, we wish you and your family a safe, fun filled summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Lawton".

Christy Lawton,
Division Director