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STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Human Services Building
444 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-38 15

February 11, 1991

The Honorable Kathleen Vellenga, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
549 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: Alternative Dispositions Study Pursuant to Chapter 542,
Section 39

In response to Chapter 542, Section 39, enacted as a result of the 1990 legislative session the Department of Human Services has convened a multidisciplinary task force (Attachment A) with the purpose of studying Alternative Dispositions. This study is conducted in response to the need to examine dispositional options for children who are in out-of-home care, cannot be returned to their families, and for whom termination of parental rights is not in the child's best interest.

The task force has met on several occasions resulting in many thought provoking discussions as the group has struggled with this difficult issue.

The task force has recognized that cultural differences, licensing requirements, and disparity between state and federal laws serve as a partial listing of factors which contribute to make this issue a complex social/legal dilemma.

As a result of this recognition, the Department recommends that the task force continue to meet in order to allow for a full development of the issues and a thorough formation of recommendations to the Legislature in 1992. We are unable to submit a formal report at this time because we have not reached consensus between task force members on vital issues in order to establish recommendations for consideration by the Legislature.

The Department does not plan on introducing legislation in this regard for the 1991 session but will forward a formalized report for your consideration prior to the 1992 legislative session.



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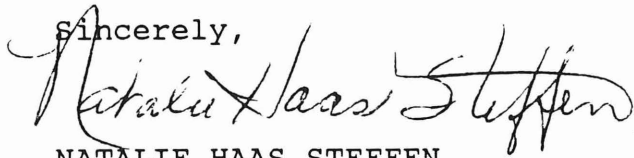
Representative Kathleen Vellenga

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I thank you for the opportunity to address this very timely, important issue and I look forward to presenting a formal report based on the hard work of the task force in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie Haas Steffen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

NATALIE HAAS STEFFEN
Commissioner

APR 16 1991