May 4, 2021

#### The Honorable Sara Hannan, Co-Chair

The Honorable Calvin Schrage, Co-Chair

House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Alaska Legislature

*Submitted via House.Community.And.Regional.Affairs@akleg.gov*

**RE: Support for House Resolution 8, Creating the House Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity**

Dear Co-Chairs Hannan and Schrage, and members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee:

I am writing to register my support for House Resolution 8, sponsored by Representatives Tarr, Foster, and Hopkins, which calls for the creation of a House Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity.

Approximately 80,000 Alaskans live with poverty, and another 70,000 individuals benefit from programs providing resources that limit further poverty. Additionally, in 2019, 10.1 percent of Alaskans lived in poverty with the highest impacts being experienced by Alaska Native communities and people of color, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The COVID-19 pandemic has further strained limited resources needed for low-income individuals and populations to meet basic needs.

Statewide partnerships constructed with the commitment to identify and address the root causes of poverty in Alaska will result in the development of innovative strategies, unique to our communities, and will help lift Alaskans out of poverty.

I support the proposed creation of a House Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity which directly addresses the poverty crisis in Alaska and fosters necessary dialogue between the public and legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of House Resolution 8.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your Contact Information]**

**[Your Community]**

CC: **[Your** [**Senator**](http://senate.legis.state.ak.us/senate.php?sort=city)**; Your** [**House Representative**](http://akleg.gov/house.php?sort=city)**]**