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Chairman-Senator Tim Owens Vice-Chairman-Senator Jeff King Ranking Member- Senator David Haley Honorable Members of the Committee

Good Morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 94. This bill requires that reasonable efforts be made to notify all relatives of the fist degree or other people who have close emotional ties to the child be notified that a temporary custody hearing will be taking place in a child in need of care proceeding. This notification will help ensure people close to the children are aware of what is going on, can be evaluated as possible placement alternatives, and can help with the reunification process of the family.

The Bill would also require the judge to order the parents to provide the names and contact information of any known family members of the child or any persons with whom the child has close emotional ties. Also, SB 94 will allow case managers to contact those people to become involved in the case early. We also hope that this will cause the parents to provide this information more readily and prevent the situation of someone close to the child not knowing the child is in temporary custody of the state until the case has progressed to a stage where it is hard for them to become involved.

Thank You for your consideration of SB 94.

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Senate Judiciary

3-8-11

Attachment