

Representative David Eastman Questions Alaska Children's Trust in Judiciary Committee Hearing February 20, 2023

Representative Sara Vance: Representative Eastman:

Representative David Eastman: Thank you through the chair. Now the new brochure that was passed out at the beginning of the meeting, it said, estimated lifetime cost per victim of fatal Child Abuse and Neglect is \$1.5 million. Why don't you tell us a little bit more about that.

Trevor Storrs Alaska Children's Trust CEO: So, through the chair, that was our indication, and that actually kind of ties in just to cost center. As indicated, Pat Sidmore, back in 2016, who led the initial collection, and vases work then also utilized it, and did the calculations of what is the predicted costs of, of, of aces. And so what we have here is like the health behavior or outcomes and estimated annual costs linked with those aces. So he was able to go through and just look at, you know, we know when someone has four aces their highest, they have a higher risk of smoking, which leads to COPD, heart disease, liver, all those things. And people that are Medicaid, so many factors were put into this. And they were able to do some estimated costs the same as with the child abuse, that we know that when children are experiencing, and there's actually I can get you a full detail on the actual cost of child abuse, we have a full analysis. And actually also, Jared and his team did something very similar. We worked off of their original estimate that comes out with what the cost of child abuse, neglect is, which incorporate the costs with OCS, but also anything medical, if they're needing of special education. So multiple factors were put into that to come up with these numbers.

Representative Sara Vance: Follow Up.

Representative David Eastman: ...And how would you respond to the argument that I've heard on occasion, where, you know, in the case where child abuse is fatal? It obviously it's not good for the child, but it's actually a benefit to society, because there aren't needed for government services and whatnot over the whole course of that child's life.

Trevor Storrs Alaska Children's Trust CEO: Through the Chair, can you say that, again, did you say a benefit for society?

Representative David Eastman: Um, talking dollars now, \$1.5 million price tag here for victims of fatal child abuse. It gets argued periodically, that it's actually a cost savings, because that child is not going to need any of those government services that they might otherwise be entitled to receive and need based on growing up in this type of environment.

Trevor Storrs Alaska Children's Trust CEO: Through the Chair, representative, I guess that would be the idea, if I can use a really bad analogy, when you hit somebody always back up, because it's cheaper to insurance. I don't pertain to that. And I'm really I'm not even sure how to answer that, that there's a cost saving to the death of a child, the impact that that has on a family and us as in the society when a child is lost, especially to child abuse and neglect is unmeasurable. And it's it's hugely tragic.

Representative David Eastman: And follow up?

Representative Sara Vance: Follow Up.

Representative David Eastman: And the way that you're calculating this 1.5 million, I don't want to say you I mean, the people who did calculate it, does that 1.5 million, get higher or lower, depending upon the age at which the child is killed.

Trevor Storrs Alaska Children's Trust CEO: So, again, there's multiple factors, and a number can definitely increase. But again, I don't believe it's going to matter if they're older or younger. Again, a loss of a child is really unmeasurable.

Representative David Eastman: And follow up?

Representative Sara Vance: Follow Up.

Dr. Jared Parrish, SOA, DPH Epidemiologist: Trevor, if I might, it just means that through the chair, the the the cost projections, that when they take into account life lost, they they take into years, a potential life lost. And so if you're younger, you have more time of potential being productive. So the costs aren't just deficits, they're also assets that you might provide into it as being a productive member of society. So most cost benefit analyses try to account for both aspects of that to come up with this estimate.

Representative David Eastman: And follow up?

Representative Sara Vance: Follow Up.

Representative David Eastman: And so would the the 1.5 million price tag would that be different, if we're talking about a six month old versus a newborn on day one, or would be the same?

Dr. Jared Parrish, SOA, DPH Epidemiologist: They would be marginally different.

Representative David Eastman: Thank you.

Note: this transcript is not presented as 100% accurate as the Judiciary Committee Hearing audio quality was limited.