



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

READINESS AND FORCE
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Bill Wielechowski
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 419
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

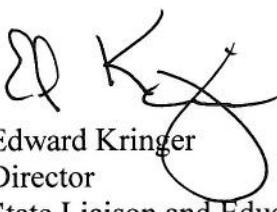
On behalf of the Department of Defense, we want to thank you for your sponsorship of Senate Bill 4. This effort will greatly aid separating Service members who move back to Alaska upon military separation or retirement with gaining academic credit and occupation licensing as they transition to civilian life.

This issue, one of our top priorities for 2013, is one of the key elements of the Veterans Employment Initiative of the current Administration. The policy as currently represented in Senate Bill 4 will enable Alaska to join 23 other states also providing this kind of help to our separating Service members; and since Alaska had 1,231 Service members move back to the state in Fiscal Year 2012, the academic and occupational licensing help your policy change provides will have significant personal impact for many.

Aided by your leadership in the Senate, the Alaska legislature has been a champion in addressing a number of key military family issues for the past six years. We intend, principally through our Regional Liaison for the Northwest, Mark San Souci, to provide as much information and support as possible as this policy initiative moves forward in upcoming hearings. However, if you have questions or need my assistance, please contact me at (571) 372-5321, or at ed.kringer@osd.mil.

With Alaska's continued dedication to our military, our Service members can complete their missions, overseas and at home, knowing you are taking care of their families.

Sincerely,


Edward Kringer
Director
State Liaison and Educational Opportunity

cc:

Mr. Mark B. San Souci, Northwest Regional State Liaison (WA, AK, ID, OR)