

**ALASKA STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING
COUNCIL, INC.**

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February 2, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Statewide Independent Living Council strongly supports HB 89. This legislation will bring state statute into compliance with federal law. It will also eliminate the need to change state statute every time federal law changes. This committee will also function as the assistive technology advisory council as required under federal law.

We support the name change of the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee. Since this committee provides oversight to the Vocational Rehabilitation program, the name will clearly align it with the State of Alaska, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division Vocational Rehabilitation. The name change will also reduce the on-going confusion between this committee and the Governor's Council on Disability and Special Education.

Thank you for considering HB 89. It is important that this committee is compliant with federal law to ensure continued funding which is critical to assist Alaskans with disabilities to become employed and have access to appropriate assistive technology services and devices. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Beck', written in a cursive style.

Jim Beck
Chair