



The Voice of Small Business®

ALASKA

February 5, 2010

The Honorable Joe Paskvan
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Senate Bill 159

Dear Senator Paskvan:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our Opposition to Senate Bill 159. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

We can appreciate your concern for the funeral benefit in the workers compensation program. However, Alaska currently has the dubious distinction of having the highest premiums in the United States. The Alaska premiums are 176% of the median premium of our sister states. This cost to small businesses is simply unbearable.

There is work being done to reform the program to bring down the program costs. We believe any benefit increases should be deferred until reforms are in place to hold down the premiums in the Alaska program.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: Senate Finance Committee
House Labor & Commerce Committee
NFIB/AK Leadership Council