

February 10, 2014

Representative Charisse Millett  
716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 620  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: AHFC's Rent Reform & HB 211, "relating to the education and employment of individuals with disabilities."

Dear Representative Millett:

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) has recently announced substantial changes to the way public housing is administered across the state. Families who are considered work-able, younger than age 62 and without a disability, will be required to attempt to find work and their housing benefits will gradually step down with the expectation that they have achieved financial self-sufficiency after a five-year period.

Through the efforts we are undertaking to reform public housing, with the goal of ultimately providing more housing to more Alaskans in need, AHFC has increased our efforts to connect people with work. Access to more job training and educational opportunities are integral to helping families with the limited resources we have. We are working with the State's Department of Health & Social Services and the Governor's Council on Disability and Special Education to determine how our work can have a positive impact on their efforts to increase employment amongst people with disabilities.

We believe that HB 211 may help our Rent Reform effort to serve more people through increased employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. While there is no requirement for people with disabilities to engage in employment as part of the new AHFC public housing "Classic" program that does not mean that we believe that some won't be able to work. In fact, inherent in rent reform is an incentive for persons with disabilities to work.

Thank you for introducing the legislation and furthering the public dialogue about these important issues.

Sincerely,



Bryan D. Butcher  
CEO/Executive Director  
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation