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MAR 05 2014

ALASKA

March 5, 2014

The Honorable Kurt Olson, Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Support for House Bill 316

Dear Representative Olson:

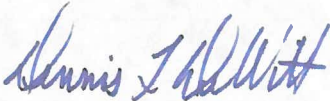
On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our support for House Bill 316. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

House Bill 316 would change the basis for paying workers compensation health services from the outdated "usual and customary" method to the "resource based relative value scale" method. We believe that this updating in the payment methodology for workers medical treatment will allow more reasonable payment rates for those services.

Savings in the medical costs in Alaska's workers compensation are very important to small businesses. Alaska workers compensation insurance premiums are the highest in the country. These premiums add to the difficulty of small businesses to remain profitable. When businesses are not profitable, they close and Alaska loses jobs and opportunities for Alaskans to earn an income.

We believe that the workers compensation program must be balanced to assure that injured employees receive needed services and the premium costs charged to businesses. HB 316 provides the balance that will serve both the employee and the employer well.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council