

Walden Moorhead
P.O. Box 1170
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Feb 12, 2014

The Hon. Bert Stedman
State Capitol Room 30
Juneau AK 99801

FEB 19 2014

RE: Senate Bill 159 Air Ambulance membership

Dear Senator Stedman,

I write to urge your support for passage of this bill to allow continued operation of an ambulance operation by Airlift Northwest. This is a critical, life or death service, the cost of which will be prohibitive or at least crippling for those who need it. Access to our nearest major trauma center at Harborview must be maintained. The inherent hazards of Alaskan lifestyles, the remote locations to obtain care, and the often inclement weather all point to this need.

As a volunteer fireman and ambulance worker, I have participated in many medevacs from our community. Our department members spend many hours in preparation, many dollars in equipping

ourselves to respond, and find ourselves out
in all kinds of weather at all hours seeking
to take care of our neighbors. Once we get
these patients to our local hospital, serious
conditions lead to the need for advanced care, and
this is where the medevac service comes into play.
All the effort and time can go for nothing if the
system loses the backup for these severe situations.

These are real people in real situations, and the
details of legislation should not deny them needed
care, or cause them to lose all their assets when
a working, proven alternative exists!

Thank you for your consideration,

Walden Moorhead

Member, Wrangell Volunteer Fire Dept.