

# KODIAK LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

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## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:           DON ROBERTS JR            
 REPRESENTING:           SELF            
 BILL#/ SUBJECT:           HB 211            
 COMMITTEE &  
 HEARING DATE:           SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE            
          25-MAR-2014          

## PLEASE SEE TESTIMONY ATTACHED

MR ROBERTS WAS WAITING TO TESTIFY  
HERE AT THE LIO BUT HIS NAME  
WAS NOT CALLED - AND THE BILL WAS  
MOVED OUT OF COMMITTEE.

MR ROBERTS CAN BE REACHED AT 907-486-7629  
OR BY EMAIL AT : derobertsjr@gci.net

Public Comment  
RE HB 211  
Don Roberts

My name is Don Roberts I live in Kodiak, I  
am a person with a disability; I have served on the  
State Independent Living Council and the State  
Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

I speak in opposition to HB 211.

HB 211 establishes people with disabilities as  
second class citizens ~~to~~ subject to the whim  
and will of employers. Because HB 211  
emphasizes wage employment to the exclusion  
of other fruitful endeavors HB 211 violates  
14th Amendment protection against involuntary  
servitude.

Because wage employment results in the curtailment  
of a number of rights and liberties HB 211  
violates the right of ~~due~~ due process.

HB 211 paints with a very broad brush - it  
seems to assume that all people with disabilities  
are the same and that their disabilities affect  
them in the same way and by virtue of a  
disability - servitude is the only opportunity  
available to them.

HB 211 also seems to assume there are places for people with disabilities to work - there are some assumptions that are further from the truth but not many and not much further. The truth is that there aren't many employers willing to consider hiring people with disabilities and are less interested in making accommodations - reasonable or otherwise. This is compounded by the fact that some employers, managers, supervisors are abusive and taken to yelling, screaming, shaming and threatening to get their way.

HB 211 will result in people with disabilities training for work they cannot get and seeking employment from people who don't want them.

Ultimately HB 211 will condemn people with disabilities to lives of poverty, ~~struggle~~ struggle, and dependence on public benefits. Stuck in a morass of a social services system that does more to perpetuate poverty than it does to alleviate it.