



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assistant Superintendent

Dave Jones

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February 3, 2014

The Honorable Kurt Olson
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Olson and Members of the House Labor & Commerce Committee:

My name is Dave Jones and I am the Assistant Superintendent for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD). I am writing to you today to provide support for the passage of HB141.

As an employer, we try to provide safety training and a safe working environment to help our employees avoid on-the-job injuries. However, when we do have an employee injured on the job, our objective is to get the employee the medical care they need to heal and have the employee return to work as soon as possible.

One of the big concerns we have is the recent increase in costs we have experienced related to the costs associated with worker's compensation. In CY2009 KPBSD experienced 44 claims with an average cost per claim of \$3,572. As of the end of August, for CY2013 we had experienced 25 claims with an average cost per claim of \$18,961. With medical costs now representing seventy-eight percent (78%) of the cost of our claims, it is clear to us that medical costs are driving the severe increases we are experiencing.

This bill addresses one of the prime examples of why KPBSD and the State of Alaska have experienced such sharp increases in workers' compensation costs. As an employer, KPBSD is more than willing to pay for the medical costs associated with healing, so the employee can return to work. However, we are willing to pay the actual costs associated with that healing. If we have an employee travel to another state to receive needed services, we should be paying the costs associated with providing those services in that state. We should not be required to pay more than the actual cost simply because the injured employee is from Alaska!

Please help us to address the severe workers' compensation cost increases we have been experiencing by passing HB141 forward from this committee.

Sincerely,

Dave Jones
Assistant Superintendent
KPBSD